CATS TRAIL

RIP-OFF SINCE 1999

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COMIC REVIEW • FAN ART • FAN FEATURE • CUTE STAFF ICONS • C3CON UPDATE

COM

CULTURE CRASH™

THE PHILIPPINES' [illegible]MIC MAGAZINE

Php85
ISSUE #12

The Wonderful World of
GHIBLI MUSEUM

The Medina Disclosure

CC COM COMICS EXTRA:
CC COM SA PUGAD NI POL

Asian Invasion Update: MG Cast in Manila

You're Under Arrest
Live Action TV Series

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

HOW WE DRAW 12
NEED FOR SPEED LINES

2nd PHILIPPINE TOYS & COLLECTIBLES CONVENTION 2003

Fan Feature:
STONE BLAZERS

CAT'S TRAIL DOUBLE-SIZED POSTER INSIDE!

Spreading the love of CC Com...

My goodness! Lately we seem to be multiplying like furry little creatures! It does my heart good feeling that the CC family is growing. Oh and guess what? We have a surprise guest artist for the next issue, and from what I'm seeing he's doing great work, we hope you like it as much as we do!

*Anyway, about this issue, we're sort of delayed a bit again because of a lot of considerations and responses from distributors, really more on the business side of things. Politics and all. Now the reason I'm mentioning this is because we are now being pressured to raise our regular price. And unlike the usual practice in the publishing industry – raise the price and pretend it never happened – we here do things a little differently, because I really think that **Culture Crash** is your comic magazine as much as it is ours. So I feel personally responsible to break the news to you that there is a slight possibility we may have to go to the 100 peso mark for the foreseeable future. All is not lost though, you know we hate doing these things so just keep your fingers crossed.*

*Hmm... okay so what's new? The stories are really moving along quite well. Jun is going through emotional hell, the action is picking up again in Pasig and Kubori, and I think Alfred is definitely going to make some long term impact on Cat's Trail. The fan feature for this issue looks fantastic too! We also hope you like the articles, like the one on **Ghibli Museum** and our spotlight on the venerable **Pol Medina Jr.** as we visited his crib somewhere deep in the regions of Las Piñas.*

*By the time you read this, the impending arrival of the three **Meteor Garden** cast must still be taking up most of the hype wave, but we do have some news for you here on the Culture Crash side! The **C3 Con** is now in preliminary planning and is slated to take place on December 13 and 14 at the Megatrade Hall 2. Things are still sketchy but we are expecting that more artists and publishers will participate this time around. We're also working on getting in more shops with more stuff to buy, cool contests like the **Indie Contest** and the new **"Make Your Own Video"** (still working on a title for it) **Contest**. **Level Up**, the people behind the highly addictive game **Ragnarok Online**, seem to be adamant about participating. Special guests are still unconfirmed and of course we still have a few surprises that we're hoping to deliver to attendees.*

We'll have more news and info for you in the next issue! See you guys in about two months!

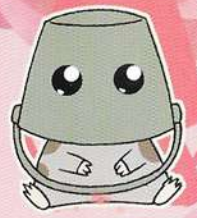
Jescie James L. Palabay
CC COM Publisher

*Special thanks to **Dyeane Alonsagay** for accompanying us to Pol Medina's house. Pahingi pang chocnut, lollipop at siomai....*

MY LITTLE PINK STAFF

James L. Palabay
Publisher /
ODID Story Writer /

iq40
Cat's Trail
Creator-Artist / ***ODID***
Artist /



Taga-Ilog
Pasig & Kubori Kikiam
Creator-Artist /
Chief Layout Artist

Taga-Kanal
Kubori Kikiam
Creator-Artist

Evil Groobs
ODID & Kubori Kikiam
Colorist / Multimedia Artist

ULTRAJON!
Overall Flat Colorist /
Layout Artist /

Mark Navarro
Editor / Article Writer /
Proof Reader

Locked Creature
Staff Icons /
To be unlocked next issue

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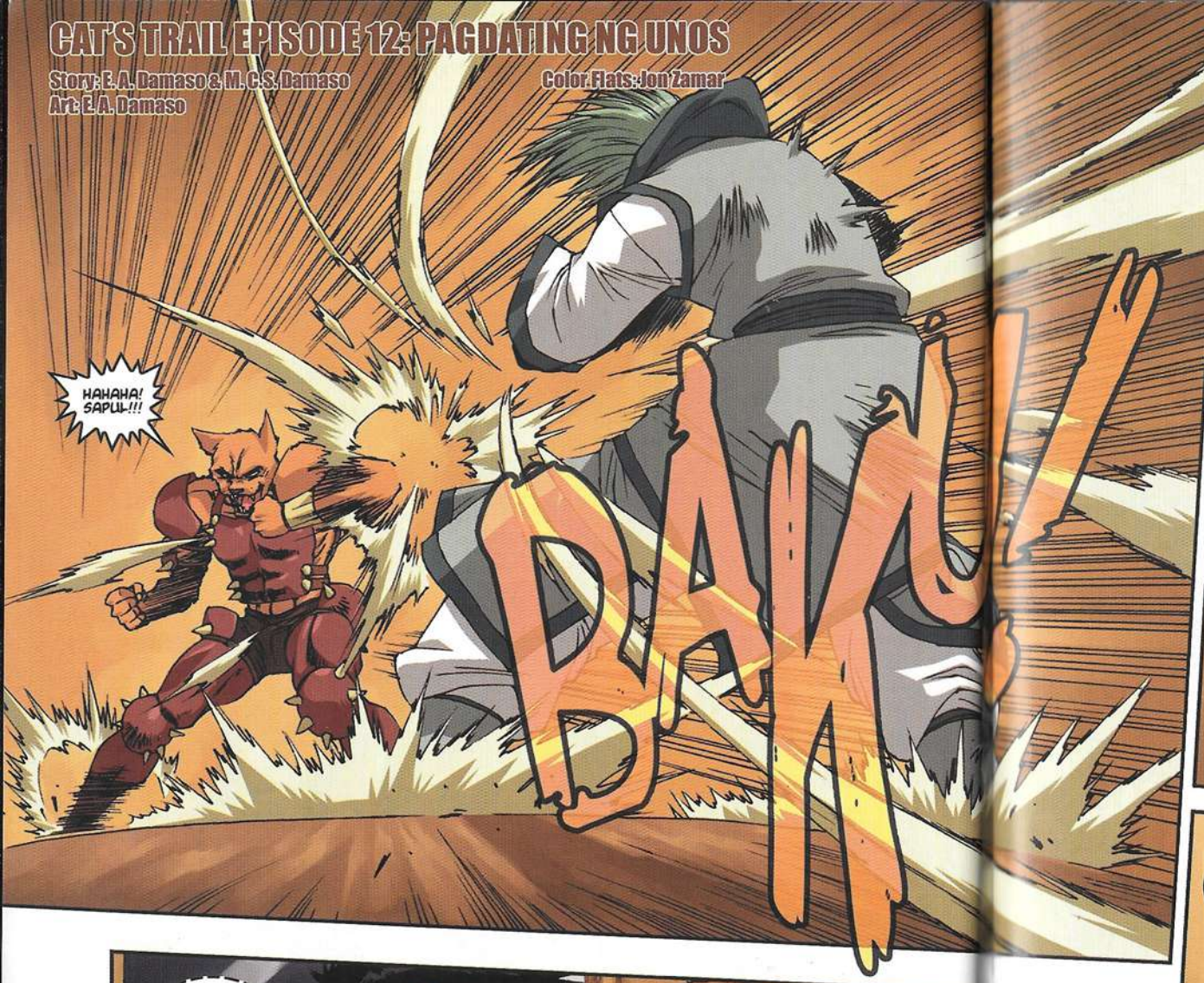
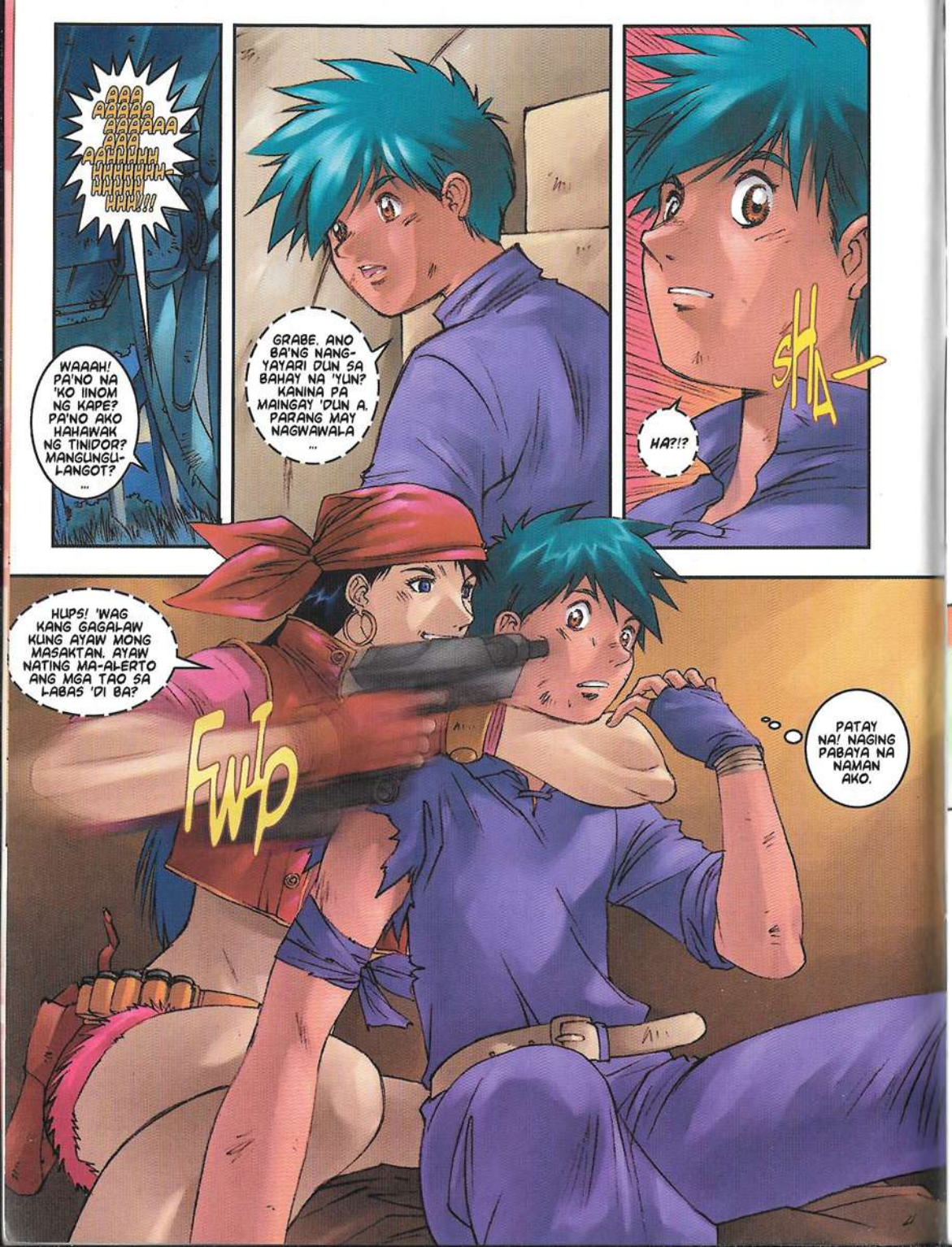
CAT'S TRAIL EPISODE 12: PAGDATING NG UNOS

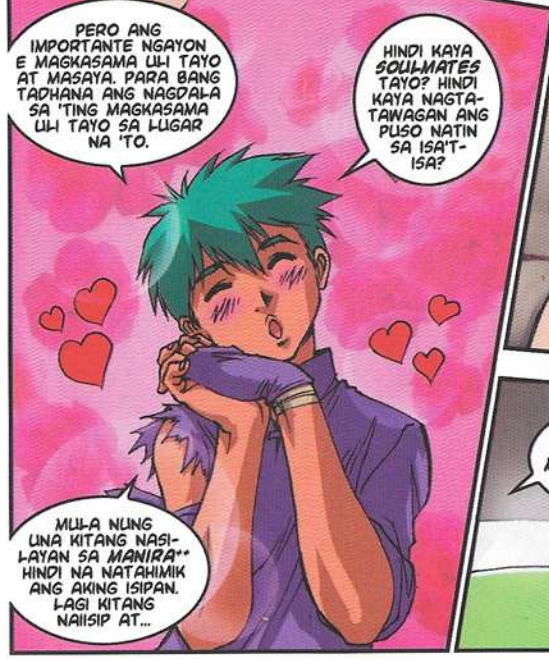
Story: E. A. Damaso & M. C. S. Damaso
Art: E. A. Damaso
Color Flats: Jon Zamar




AAAA AAAAA AAAAAAA AAA AAHHHHHHHH HHHH!!!
WAAAH! PA'NO NA 'KO IINOM NG KAPE? PA'NO AKO HAHAWAK NG TINIDOR? MANGUNGULANGOT?
GRABE. ANO BA'NG NANGYAYARI DUN SA BAHAY NA 'YUN? KANINA PA MAINGAY 'DUN A. PARANG MAY NAGWAWALA
SHA—
HA?!?
HUPS! 'WAG KANG GAGALAW KUNG AYAW MONG MASAKTAN. AYAW NATING MA-ALERTO ANG MGA TAO SA LABAS 'DI BA?
FWIP
PATAY NA! NAGING PABAYA NA NAMAN AKO.

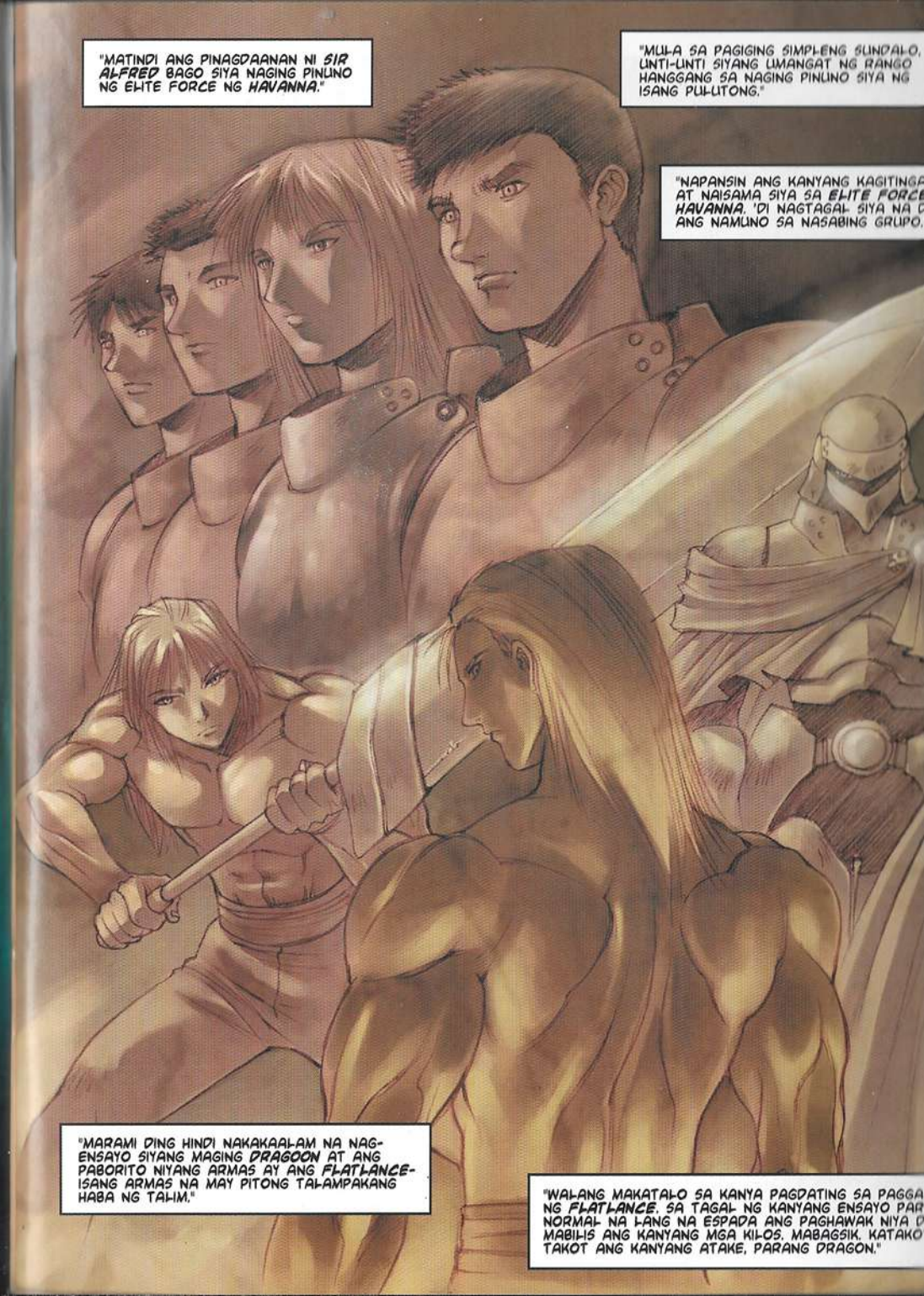
ANO NAMAN ANG KUWENTO MO, GUWAPO? BA'T NAG-TATAGO KA DIN 'ATA?
NASIRA PA 'ATA ANG PLANO KO.
PA'NO AKO MAKA-KATAKAS NGAYON? KELANGAN GUMAWA NG PARAAN...
NAGIGING TENSE KA 'AT A. MAY PLANO KANG KUMA-WALA?
HUHU
BLOOP
KANINA PA NGA AKO NANGH HINA SA PAGKAKA AKAP MO SA 'KI E... EHE! 'DI KO KAYA PUMIGLAS
NAPILI MO PA ANG KAR-WAHENG PINAGTATA-GUAN DIN NAMIN A.
PASENSYA NA PERO MASIKIP NA DITO. HINDI KA NA PUWEDENG MAKISAKI PA.
SHWIP!
HAHA! ISA NA NAMANG BIKTIMA ANG NAHULOG SA BITAG NG AMING GRUPO!
PA'NO NA ATE WHOMPERS? ANO'NG GAGAWIN NATIN SA KANYA? BABALATAN KO NA BA 'YAN? AASINAN? IGIGISA AT SASABAWAN? BWAHA-HAHA!!! LAGOT KA SA 'MIN NGAYON! MAHINA PA NAMAN AKO MAGLUTO, MAPUROL ANG GAGAMITIN KONG KUTSILYO AT...
...TEKA...

*ISSUE 5- ED



*ISSUE 10- ED.
**ISSUE 2- ED.

BR-KASH!
PAMBIHIRA! TATLONG NAG-LALAKIHANG TAO KAYANG-KAYA NIYA?!?
GANYAN TALAGA SI ALFRED. HINDI SIYA MADALING PATUMBAHIN. HINDING-HINDI SIYA MATA-TALO NG TATLONG BUGOY NA YAN.
HUGK!
BRAK!!
"DAHIL SA TAGLAY NIYANG GALING SA PAKIKIDIGMA, MAY TAWAG KAY SIR ALFRED ANG MGA SUNDALO NG HAVANNA..."
..."ANG PANGIL NG DRAGON!"


"MATINDI ANG PINAGDAANAN NI SIR ALFRED BAGO SIYA NAGING PINUNO NG ELITE FORCE NG HAVANNA."
"MULA SA PAGIGING SIMPLENG SUNDALO, UNTI-UNTI SIYANG UMANGAT NG RANGO HANGGANG SA NAGING PINUNO SIYA NG ISANG PULUTONG."
"NAPANSIN ANG KANYANG KAGITINGA AT NAISAMA SIYA SA ELITE FORCE HAVANNA. 'DI NAGTAGAL SIYA NA ANG NAMUNO SA NASABING GRUPO.
"MARAMI DING HINDI NAKAKAALAM NA NAG-ENSAYO SIYANG MAGING DRAGOON AT ANG PABORITO NIYANG ARMAS AY ANG FLATLANCE- ISANG ARMAS NA MAY PITONG TALAMPAKANG HABA NG TAHIM."
"WALANG MAKATALO SA KANYA PAGDATING SA PAGGA NG FLATLANCE. SA TAGAL NG KANYANG ENSAYO PAR NORMAL NA LANG NA ESPADA ANG PAGHAWAK NIYA MABILIS ANG KANYANG MGA KILOS. MABAGSIK. KATAKO TAKOT ANG KANYANG ATAKE, PARANG DRAGON."

...UUUHHH...

AAAAHHH!!... S-SUKO NA PO AKO! HUWAG NIYO NA PO AKO SAKTAN. 'DI KO NA KAYA...
SANA NATUTUNAN MO NA LEKSIYON MO.
'PAG NAKITA ULI KITA O NABALITAANG NANGGULO ULI SA LUGAR NA 'TO HINDI NA 'KO MAGIGING MAAWAIN.

UH?
!!!

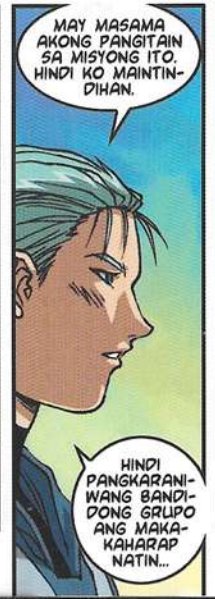
UMALIS NA KAYO!!! NGAYON DIN!
OPO, SER!
YES SER.
MASUSUNOD.

AYOS NA BA MANG ELI?

HYAH! HYAH!

WOW! MAY HORSE SA ET. NASAN NA KAYA 'YUNG MGA BIG MAYA SAKA NORTHSTALLIONS?
'TAY, BA'T NAWALAN NG DAMIT 'YUNG MGA KAPITBAHAY NATIN?
TAMAD 'YUNG ARTIST.
TAMAD O MANYAK?
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

ALFRED, MAY BUMÁBAGABAG BA SA 'YO? MAY NAKALIGTAAN BA TAYONG DETALYE?


MAY MASAMA AKONG PANGITAIN SA MISYONG ITO. HINDI KO MAINTINDIHAN.
HINDI PANGKARANIWANG BANDIDONG GRUPO ANG MAKAKAHARAP NATIN...

IHANDA NIYO ANG SARILI NIYO.
HINDI ITO MAGIGING MADALI.

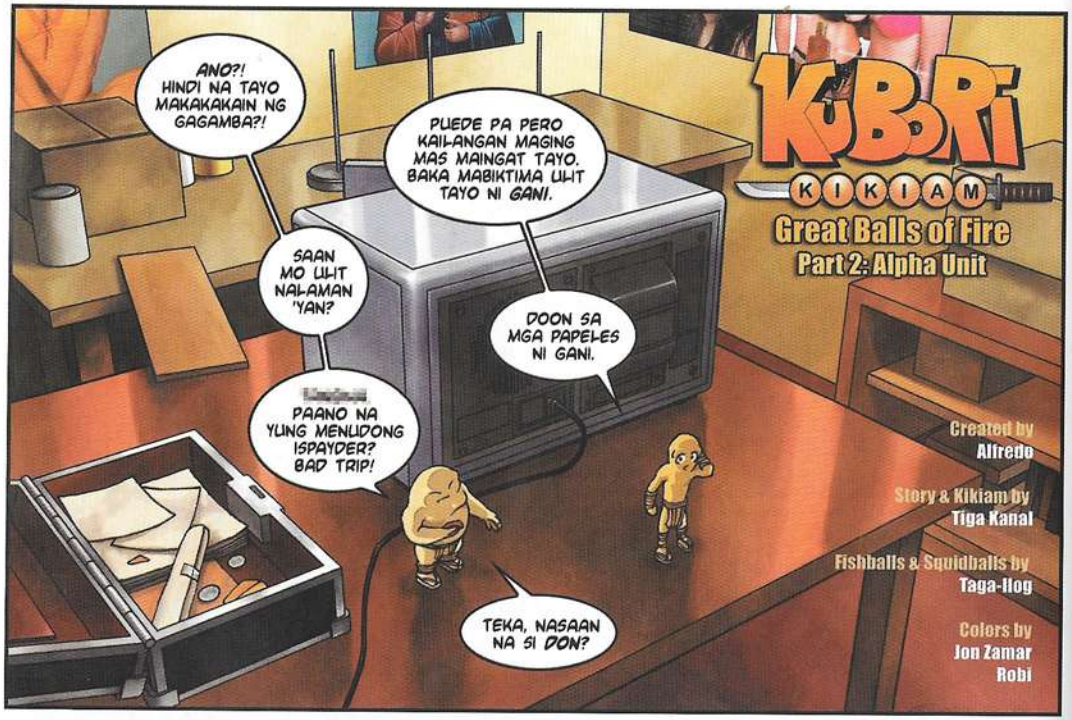
SAMANTALA...
CAW CAW
CAW
CAW
SHSHSH
SHSHSHAA
SHF SHF
KAMAHALAN.
YUKIKO, MAG-ULAT!
NAPAG-ALAMAN NG ISA SA AKING MGA ESPIYA NA MAY PAPADAAN NA NAMANG BAGONG CARAVAN SA SERPENT'S PASS.
MAY MALILIKOM NA NAMAN TAYONG KAGAMITAN, KAMAHALAN.
MAGALING. MAGAGAMIT NATIN 'YAN SA AKING BAGONG "KAMPANYA". HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!!
IHANDA MO NA ANG 'YONG MGA ALAGAD. KAYO NA ANG BAHALA SA DISKARTE. MALAKI ANG TIWALA KO SA INYO.
FLIPFLIP FLIP
OPO. MASUSUNOD PO.
SA SUSUNOD NA EPISODE: ANG PAGHAHARAP NG GRUPO NI YUKIKO AT ANG MGA SUNDALO NI ALFRED!
SIYEMPRE KASAMA DUN SILA AIREE AT ANG BARKADA NIYA.

ITUTULOY

AKO SI GENERAL ISAGANI SALONGA.
BATA PALANG AKO'Y GUSTO KO NANG MAGING SUNDALO.
Hindi sinanto ng naka-imbak na acetylene ang junkshop na ito. (Abby Tifio)
3 Tomador
GUSTO KONG PROTEKTAHAN ANG AKING BAYAN LABAN SA KATIWALIAN, SA LOOB O SA LABAS.

RETIRADO NA 'KO NGAYON NGUNIT SINISIKAP KO PA RING MAGING AKTIBO...
KAHIT SA MALILIIT NA PARAAN.
NOON, BILANG SUNDALO, BAWAT LABAN AY PARA SA BANSA.

NGAYON AY LUMALABAN AKO PARA SA ISANG TAO.
SAN DIMAS MEDICAL CENTER
NGAYON, PARANG MAS MALAKI ANG NAKATAYA.


ANO?! HINDI NA TAYO MAKAKAKAIN NG GAGAMBA?!
PUEDE PA PERO KAILANGAN MAGING MAS MAINGAT TAYO. BAKA MABIKTIMA ULIT TAYO NI GANI.
SAAN MO ULIT NALAMAN 'YAN?
DOON SA MGA PAPELES NI GANI.
PAANO NA YUNG MENUDONG ISPAYDER? BAD TRIP!
TEKA, NASAAN NA SI DON?
KUBORI
KIKIAM
Great Balls of Fire
Part 2: Alpha Unit
Created by
Alfredo
Story & Kikiam by
Tiga Kanal
Fishballs & Squidballs by
Taga-Ilog
Colors by
Jon Zamar
Robi

NANDOON SA TAAS, NAGHAHANAP NG MATATAKASAN NATIN.

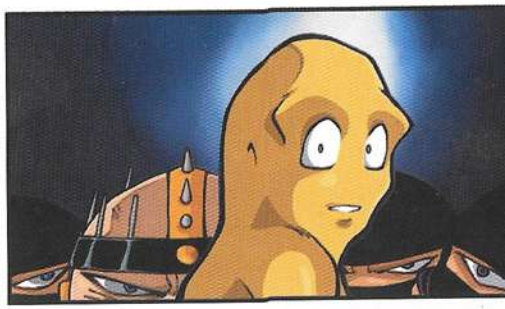
AYUS! SOLO KO NA 'TONG PITSA!
MANNY, INGAT. HINDI PORKE'T WALA SINA RALF EH MAGIGING PABAYA NA TAYO.

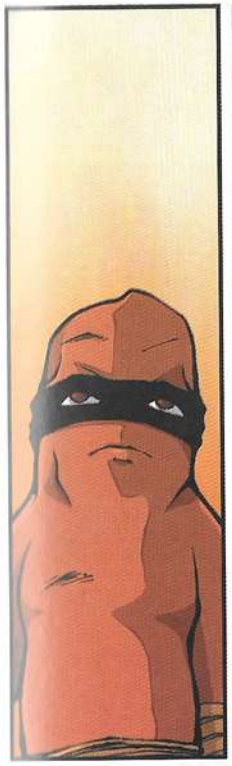
KAHIT NANDITO PA YUNG NA 'YON KAKATAYIN KO YUNG HAYUP NA 'YON!
MANNY, PUSO MO.

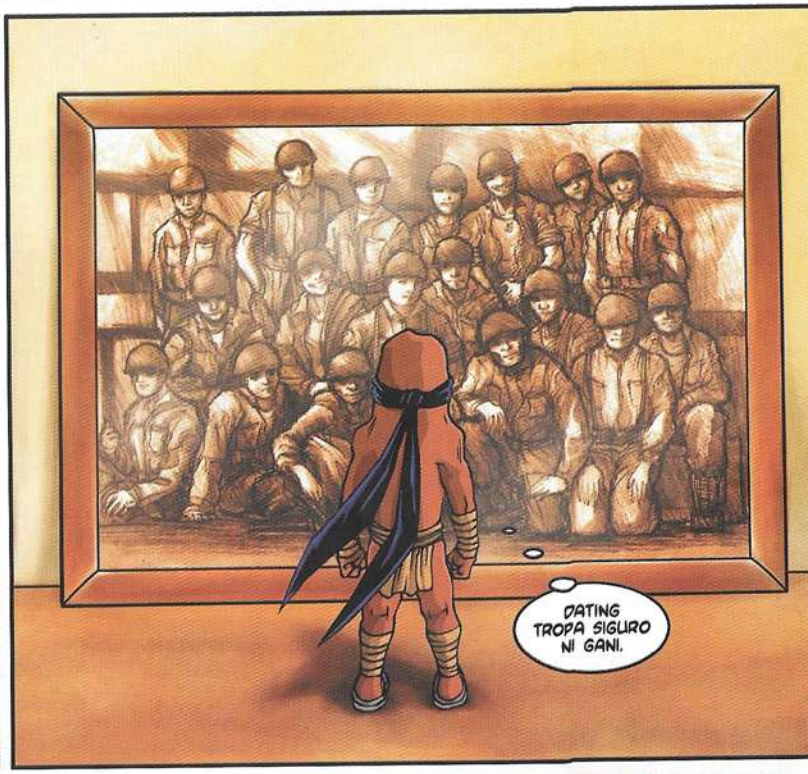
MGA FISHBOL 'YAN. WISH KO LANG!
HMPH. NAALALA KO YUNG DATI SA BIHIRRA MALL. KAKA-ARCADE LANG NATIN TAPOS HINILING MO NA SANA MA-ENCOUNTER NATIN SILA*

*GP1

TAPOS NAKASALUBONG NGA NATIN. NAKA-KATAKOT PERO NAKAKATUWANG ISIPIN.



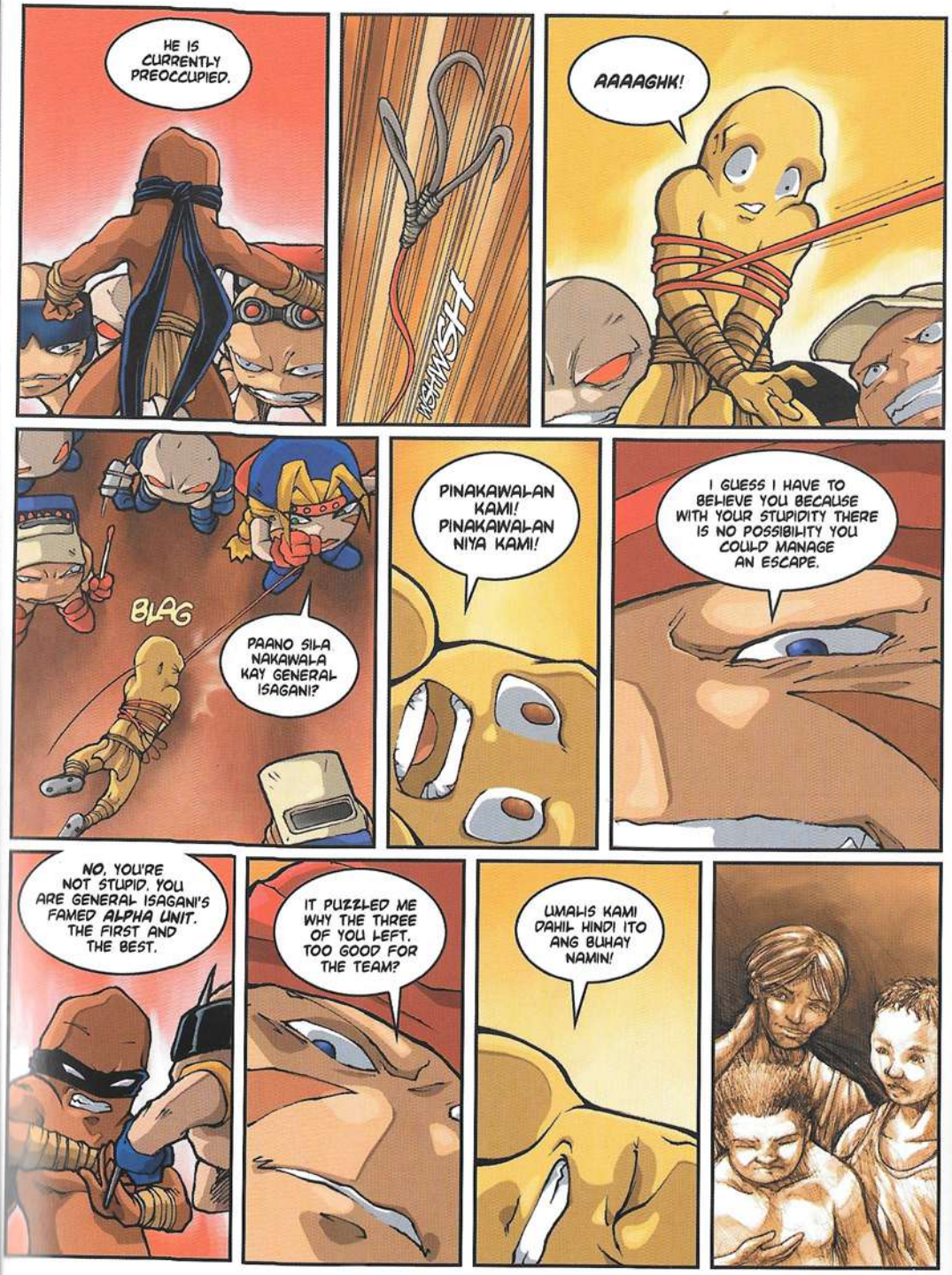



DATING TROPA SIGURO NI GANI.

HMM. PAMILYAR YUNG LALAKING 'YON AH.

ANO BA 'TO?! KAILANGAN 'KONG MAHANAP YUNG DATING LABASAN.
AYOKO NANG MAABUTAN NILA RALF. NABUGBOG AKO 'NON.
NANDITO NA SILA!
KUNG KAILANG WALA AKONG SIBAT.

MANNY, HINDI NA 'TO NAKAKATUWA.
COOL KA LANG 'JO.
AKIN NA BAHISONG KO.
TANGA! NAIWAN NATIN LAHAT NG GAMIT NATIN.
HUHIHIN NINYO 'YANG KIKIAM NA 'YAN! TINRAYDOR NIYA TAYONG LAHAT! SINILIP NIYA PA YUNG MGA PLANO NI GAN!!
HAH!
MANNY KA!
HMPH! STUPID IDIOT!
TEKA TEKA! PISBOL AKO!
Drag!
BOGSH
BRAAG
PRANG
BOG
DON'T BOTHER WAITING FOR YOUR FRIEND.


HE IS CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED.
WHAWSH
AAAAGHK!
BLAG
PAANO SILA NAKAWALA KAY GENERAL ISAGANI?
PINAKAWALAN KAMI! PINAKAWALAN NIYA KAMI!
I GUESS I HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU BECAUSE WITH YOUR STUPIDITY THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY YOU COULD MANAGE AN ESCAPE.
NO, YOU'RE NOT STUPID. YOU ARE GENERAL ISAGANI'S FAMED ALPHA UNIT. THE FIRST AND THE BEST.
IT PUZZLED ME WHY THE THREE OF YOU LEFT. TOO GOOD FOR THE TEAM?
UMALIS KAMI DAHIL HINDI ITO ANG BUHAY NAMIN!

YES, YOU LIVE THE LIVES OF CIVILIANS, NOT SOLDIERS. AND LIKE THEY SAY, "IN WAR, CIVILIANS ARE THE FIRST TO DIE".
AYE CARNAL PUTOH!!!
TSUG
DIYAN KA LANG!
AAAAGHK!!!
PUEDE NA SIGURO 'TO.
'WAG KANG GAGALAW, BAKA MAHIWA KA.
TU-TULONG!
SIR RALF TULONG!!!

LANG'YA, PAANO KA NAPUNTA DIYAN?
DIYAN MO PA NAISIPANG UMAKYAT. AYOS KA RIN 'NO.
NGABA, DAPAT TUTA NA LANG ANG BINIGAY KO KAY GANI.
DAHAN DAHAN.
DIYAN KA LANG, NORIO.
WAG KANG GAGAL-
NAG-BROWNOUT ARAY! SUMABIT PA YATA KAMAY KO.
TULONG!
GANI TULONG!
KRA-THOOMM!!!

TSUTSUTSUG
AAAAAAAAH!
DAMN VISIONS, NOT NOW!
SUBDUE TARGETS AT ALL COST!
KARIN RESSEN CHOU!
PRESS 3X CONSECUTIVELY
DGSHK!
PAG
BGSH
WEAK PUNCH + WEAK KICK
IORI ATTACK DEFLECTOR!
(DURING DEFLECTOR) ANY PUNCH OR KICK
PAK
ARCADE TRAINING 'TO BOY!
AYOKO NA.
AREKUP!

AY ! KAILANGAN KONG MAKABABA PARA TULUNGAN 'TONG MGA .
TEKA, MAY ISA PA 'KONG MOVE NA HINDI NAGAGAWA.
HUPS!
(NEAR OPPONENT, MID-AIR) DOWN + ANY KICK
DODON...
CATAPULT!!!
AY !
BENJO, ITO NA ANG HULING BESES NA ILILIGTAS KITA.
MANNY, IBABA MO KO!

MUNTIK NA 'KO DOON AH. BUTI NA LANG HINDI MASYADONG NAKABUKAS 'TONG-
HUH?
MALI AKO 'DON AH.
ARAY!
THE ALPHA UNIT. THE FIRST, THE BEST AND NOW THE LAST.
TIME TO WISH YOU WERE NEVER ENLISTED, KIKIAM.

SI... SI NORIO!
MAJOR RALF, ANONG GAGAWIN NATIN?!
NAKAWALA!

NORIO'S NOT OUR PRIMARY CONCERN.
BESIDES, NORIO IS INCAPABLE OF ACCESSING HIGH GROUND.

SSHOOO

YOU SHOULD LEARN TO BE HONEST WITH YOUR FEELINGS! NEVER BE ASHAMED OF HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT A PERSON! LIVE YOUR LIFE TO THE FULLEST FOR THESE ARE THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE!!!
FURTHERMORE, WHAT IS LIFE IF WE DO NOT LIVE FOR LOVE?!?
BLAG!

MS. MAYUMI, 'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA. TALAGANG GANYAN LANG ANG MGA BATA. BA! HINDI MO NATATANONG, WALA PA 'YAN SA MGA NAGING PROBLEM STUDENTS KO DATI NOONG BAGONG TEACHER PA LAMANG AKO.
GANON PO BA SIR?

OO MS. MAYUMI, GUSTO MO IKWENTO KO SA 'YO MINSAN. MARAMI AKONG KAKA-IBANG KARANASAN SA BUHAY KO NA IKAGU-GULAT MO. ALAM MO BA'NG DATI AKONG GANGSTER?
OWWSS? PERO NGAYON PRINCIPAL NA KAYO. ANG GALING N'YO NAMAN PALA SIR! SIGE 'KWENTO N'YO.
O SIGE. AH PWEDE SA DINNER NAMAN MS. MAYUMI PARA MA-TREAT NAMAN KITA MASKI ISANG BESES!
O SIGE SIR!
TALAGA?!? SERYOSO? SIGE! HAHAHA! OH AND PLEASE CALL ME ERIC

PERO PARE! MALI NAMAN APPROACH MO KASI!

MINSAN AY MAG-USAP TAYO NANG MABIGYAN NAMAN KITA NG TIPS! HEHEHE!
FSSSS!
THIS GUY I LIKE!
SIR!!!

YES SIR.
AH, EH, PERO TEKA, OO NGA PALA JUN. WE STILL HAVE TO INFORM YOUR PARENTS AND MEET UP. BIBIGYAN KITA NG LETTER UNDERSTOOD?

BA'T NGA BA NAGKAGANON!? BAD TRIP HINDI KO MAINTINDIHAN KUNG PAANO KO NAGAWA 'YON.
YAN 'YUN! YUNG MANYAK KANINA.
ANG KAPAL TALAGA.
LAGOT SA 'KIN 'TO.
SI CLARISSA?? TALAGA? OKAY AH!

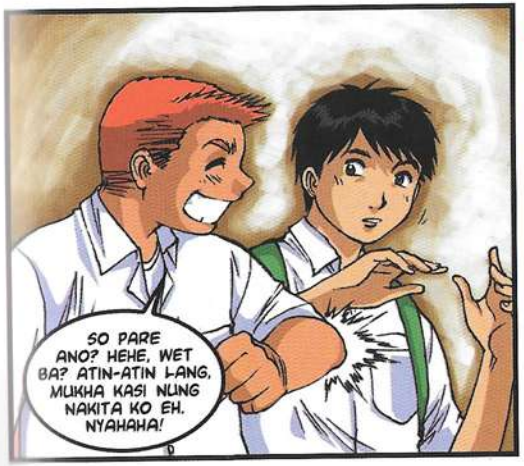
GOOD. SIGE SEND MO NA 'YAN KASAMA YUNG KUHA NG FLAGPOLE INCIDENT. PATI NA RIN YUNG MESSAGE NA SINABI KO SA 'YO.
ALL SPC MEMBERS FROM ALL CHAPTERS?
OF COURSE.

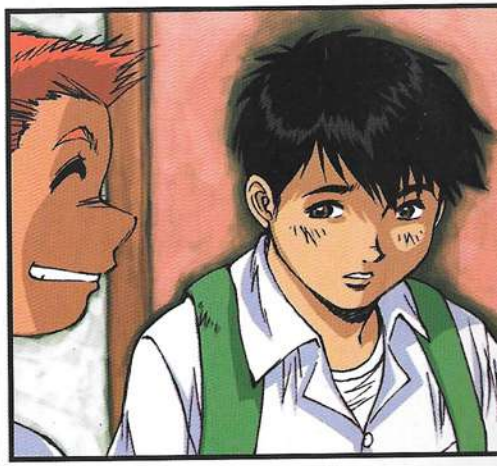
NUOOOOOMP!

BENJO! ANONG?!?
SHHH...

PARE ASTIG!!! SIKAT KA NA! HEHEHE, NAGBAGO KA NA TALAGA, SABI NA EH, I ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN YOU 'TOL! SIKAT! ASTIG!

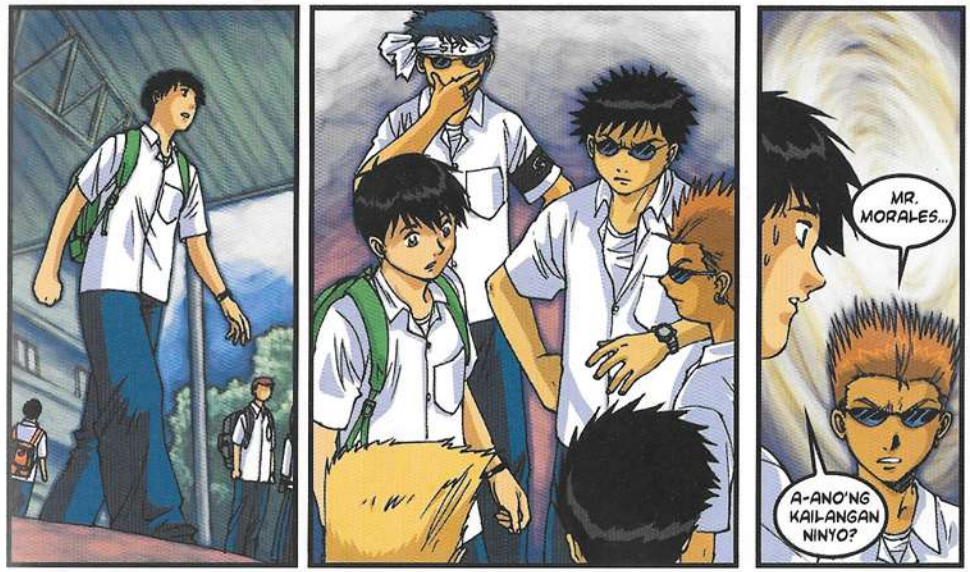
MMM CLARISSA! MMMM JUN!


SO PARE ANO? HEHE, WET BA? ATIN-ATIN LANG, MUKHA KASI NUNG NAKITA KO EH. NYAHAHA!



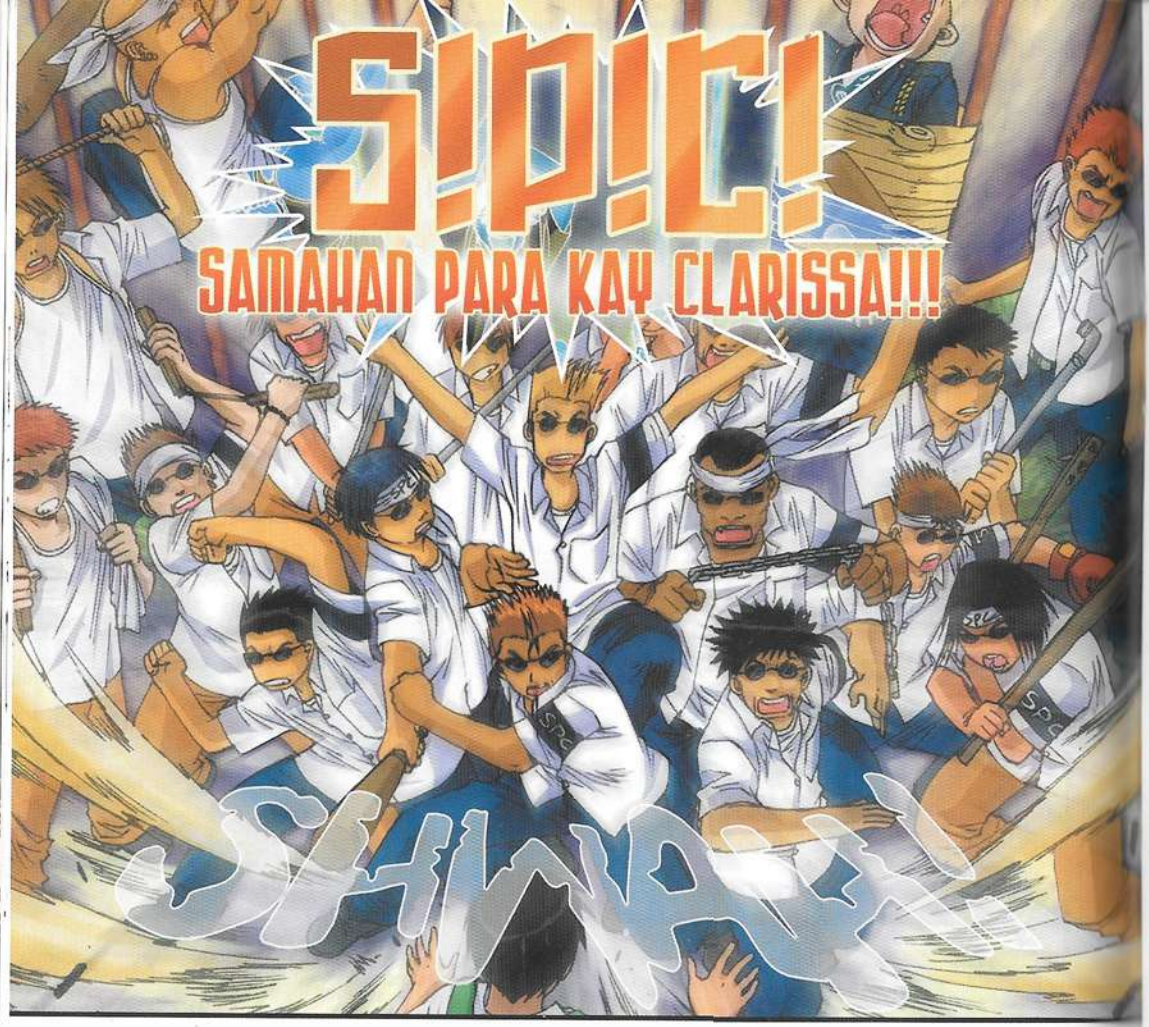
*SAMAHAN PARA KAY CLARISSA

BRRRRNNNGGGG!!!
SIGE CLASS, WE'LL CONTINUE TOMORROW, HAVE A GOOD DAY!
TARA NA LAURA DALI, MA-INFECT PA TAYO NG YUCK NA TAO D'YAN. HANAPIN NA NATIN SINA CLARISSA.
SANG AYON AKO. DAPAT LAMANG NA TAYONG MGA TUNAY NA KAIBIGAN NIYA ANG KUMALINGA SA KANYA.

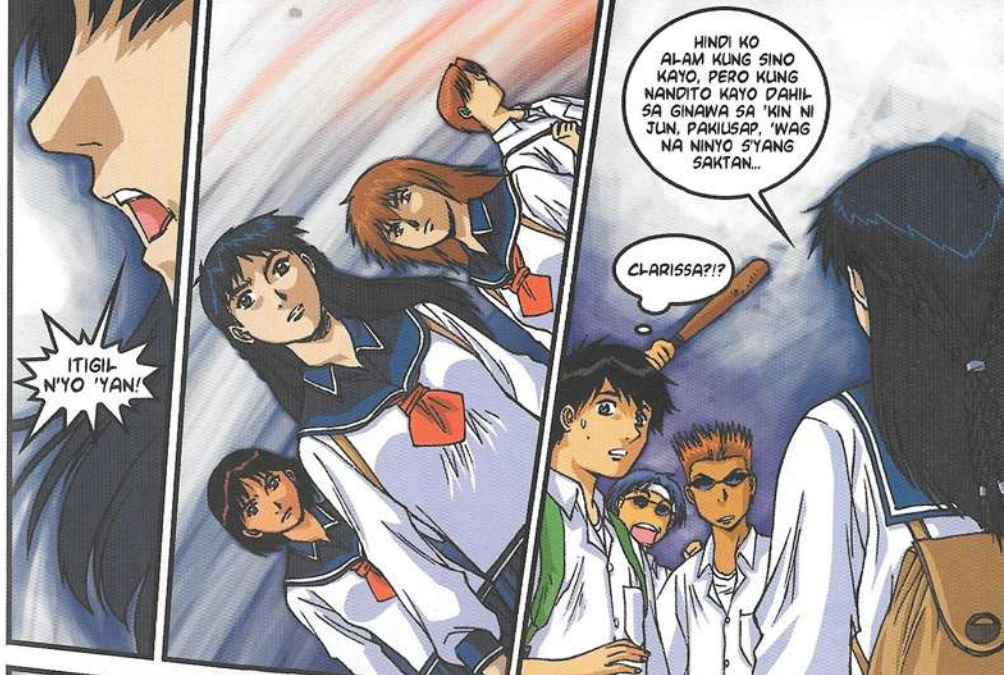

MR. MORALES...
A-ANO'NG KAILANGAN NINYO?

MR. MORALES, KAILANGAN PA BA NAMING MAGPALIWANAG KUNG BAKIT KAMI NARITO?
NAIS PALA NAMING MAGPASALAMAT PALA SA IYO MR. MORALES.
DAHIL SA IYONG NAGING KASALANA'Y NGAYON LANG YATA NAKUMPLETO ANG ATTENDANCE NG SPC MEMBERS FROM ALL CHAPTERS...

KAMI ANG ILAW NA NAGBABANTAY SA GITNA NG DILIM...
ANG MGA HUMAHADLANG SA MGA NAIS GUMAMBALA SA KINABUKASAN NG AMING DIYOSA...
TIGA-SUPIL NG MGA BOLERO, MANLOLOKO AT NG MGA NAIS UMANGKIN SA KANYA...
KAMI AY NABUBUH UPANG PAGHINKU SIYA!
KAMI ANG...


S!p!C!
SAMAHAN PARA KAY CLARISSA!!!
SHARK

SUGOD MGA KAPATID! FOR CLARISSA WITH LOVE!!!
SKRRCH! SKRRCH! SKRRCH! SKRRCH!

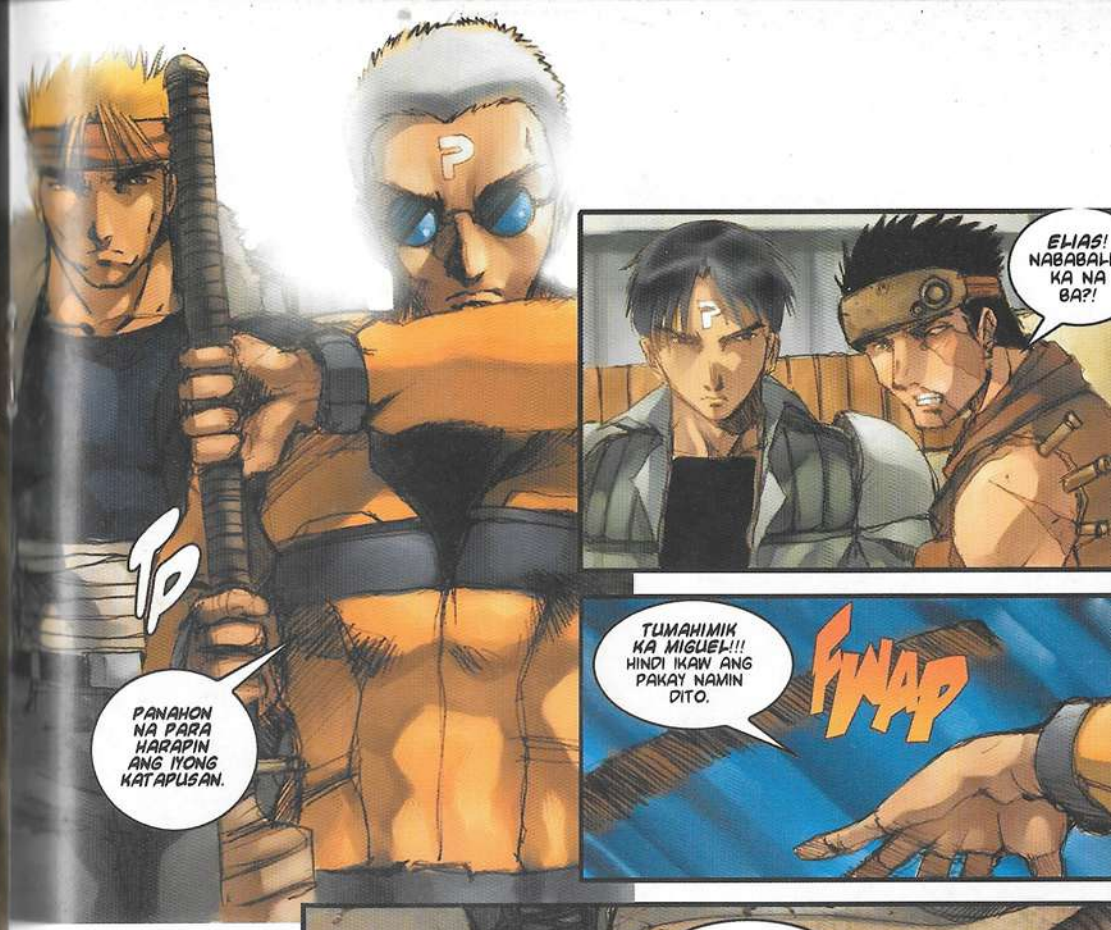

ITIGIL N'YO 'YAN!
HINDI KO ALAM KUNG SINO KAYO, PERO KUNG NANDITO KAYO DAHIL SA GINAWA SA 'KIN NI JUN, PAKIUSAP, 'WAG NA NINYO S'YANG SAKTAN...
CLARISSA?!?

CLARISSA... S-SALAM...
JUN...ALAM KO KULANG, PERO SANA'Y BAYAD NA ANG UTANG NA LOOB KO SA 'YO.
PAKIUSAP RIN SA 'YO. 'WAG MO NA AKONG KAKAUSAPIN. HINDI NA KITA KAIBIGAN, HINDI NA KITA KILALA...

PASIG

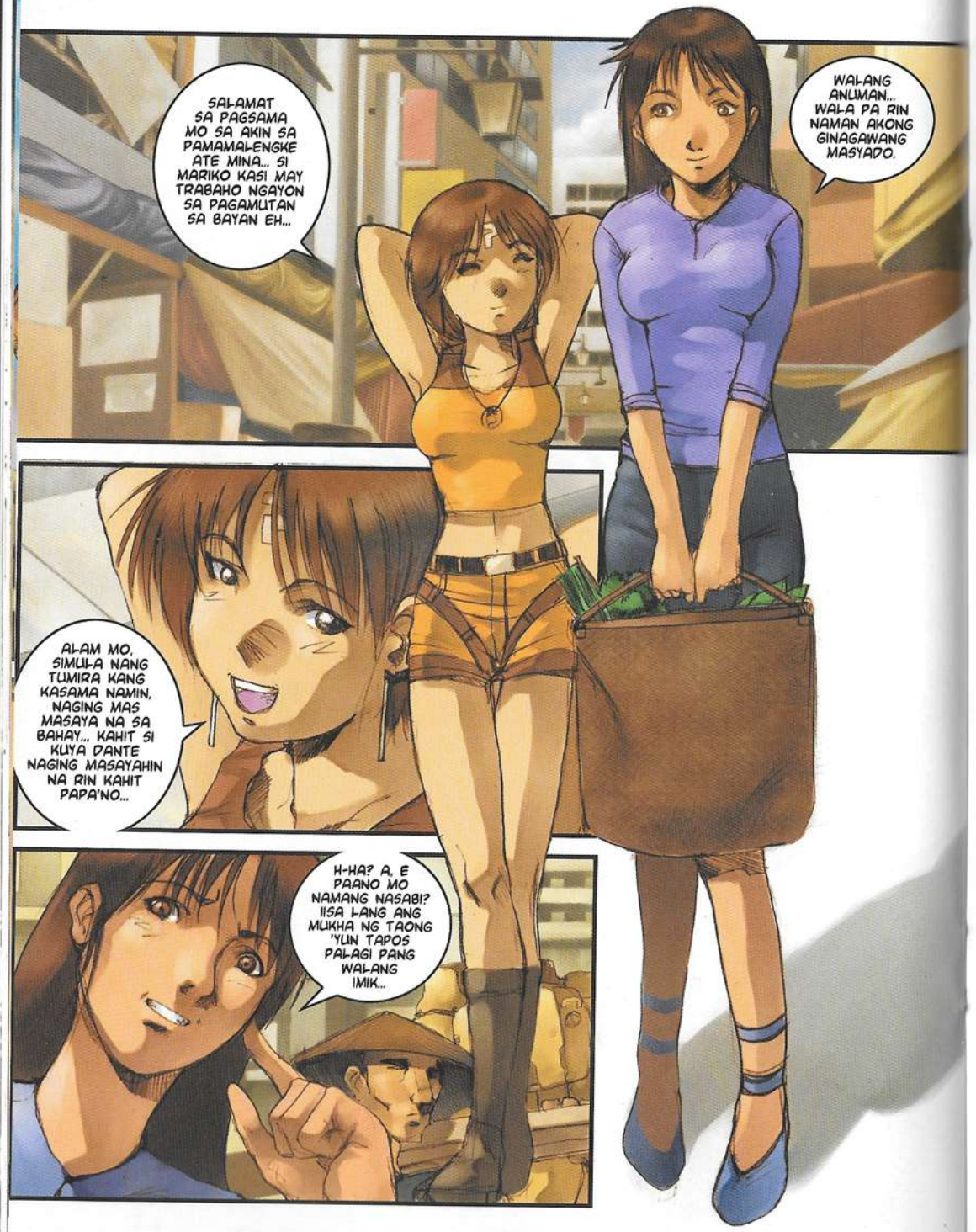
IKA-12 NA KABANATA: SILAKBO

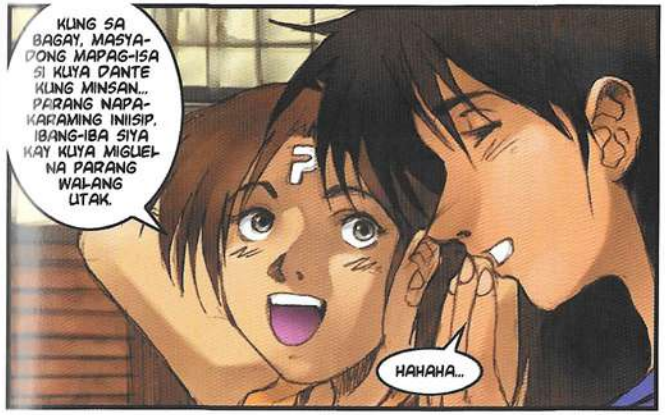
Story & Art by Taga-Ilog
Flats by: Jon Zamar
Color Assist: Robi



HINDI!
PING
TAPOS KA NA!!!
CHK
HANGGANG D'YAN KA NA LANG DANTE.

BKAM! BKAM!
BKAM!
KUYA!!!
SHHFF
BKAM! BKAN
PING
PING
PING
PING
BISH!
GRAHHH!!!
LUMABAN KA DANTE...


SALAMAT SA PAGSAMA MO SA AKIN SA PAMAMALENGKE ATE MINA... SI MARIKO KASI MAY TRABAHO NGAYON SA PAGAMUTAN SA BAYAN EH...
WALANG ANUMAN... WALA PA RIN NAMAN AKONG GINAGAWANG MASYADO.
ALAM MO, SIMULA NANG TUMIRA KANG KASAMA NAMIN, NAGING MAS MASAYA NA SA BAHAY... KAHIT SI KUYA DANTE NAGING MASAYAHIN NA RIN KAHIT PAPA'NO...
H-HA? A, E PAANO MO NAMANG NASABI? IISA LANG ANG MUKHA NG TAONG 'YUN TAPOS PALAGI PANG WALANG IMIK...


KUNG SA BAGAY, MASYADONG MAPAG-ISA SI KUYA DANTE KUNG MINSAN... PERANG NAPAKARAMING INIISIP. IBANG-IBA SIYA KAY KUYA MIGUEL NA PARANG WALANG UTAK.
HAHAHA...

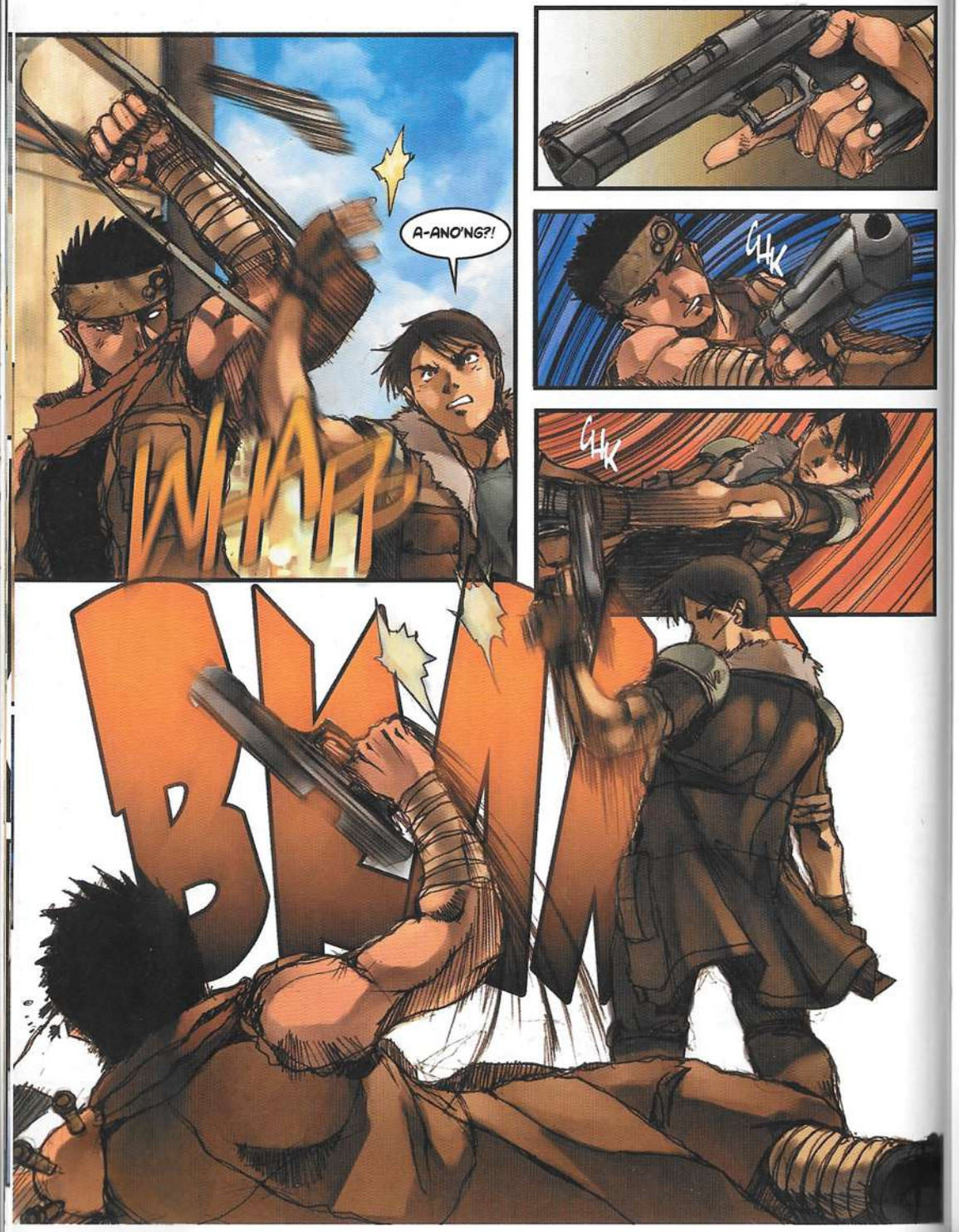
PERO KAHIT TAHIMIK 'YUNG SI KUYA DANTE, LALAKI PA RIN 'YUN. KAYA KUNG AKO SA 'YO, AKO NA GAGAWA NG PARAAN PARA MAPANSIN.. 'DI PWEDENG BABAGAL-BAGAL!
H-HA? A-ANO'NG... PINAGSASA... TEKA...

SIGE KA... 'PAG NAGKATAON BAKA MAUNAHAN KITA SA KANYA...

HAHAHAHA
NAMUMULA KA NA ATE MINA!!!
H-HINDI A! TARA NA NGA, UWI NA TAYO!

LAST ISSUE

**SA LABAN NINA KIARA, ISIAH AT RENNO


A-ANO'NG?!
WHAT!
CHK
CHK
BA!

TCH!
SINAYANG MO BALA KO TANDA!
HEH... MUKHANG MASYADO NGA AKONG MATANDA PARA SA GANITONG MGA LARO...

HAYAAN MO... SISIGURADUHIN KONG HINDI KA NA TATANDA PANG MUH...
K-CHK

ipaubaya mo na sa akin ang isang ito...

HEH... MUKHANG TATAPUSIN MO NA ANG SINIMULAN MO... HA, CHAREN?
DI KO ALAM KUNG PAANO MO NAPASAMA SI ELIAS SA MGA PLANO MO PERO SINISIGURO KONG HINDI KA MAG-TATAGUMPAY.

SHE
TUMAHIMIK KA! hindi mo alam ang pinagsasasabi mo! wala akong intensyong madamay ka pero masyado kang mapusok!

ITIGIL MO 'YAN CHAREN. SI DANTE ANG IPI-NUNTA NATIN DITO...
BINABALAAN KITA MIGUEL KAPAG NAKIALAM KA PANG MULI, AKO NA MISMO ANG TATAPOS SA IYO!
ELIAS.. BAKIT MO GINAGAWA ITO?
WALA KANG KAALAM-ALAM SA MGA NANGYARI... MAS MAKABULUTING MANATILI NA LANG IYONG GANOON.
PWE! MASYADO KAYONG MADRAMA! TATAPUSIN KO NA ANG ESCLABO!
OOOF
SKKGGGSHH
P-PAANONG?!
TD
KUYA!
HUMANDA KAYONG LAHAT...

FAN FEATURE

Stone Blazers

BY BRIAN BATCHILLER

'HENRI...'

SINO KA...

'HUWAG MONG HAYAANG MAWASAK ANG DAIGDIG...'

ANG PAGSAKOP AY NALALAPIT NA!

'HAHAWIIN NG PAG-ASA ANG PAG-AALINLANGAN AT ANG KADILIMAN AY MAGWAWAKAS NA.....'

HUMANDA KAYO SA 'KIN...
'ETO NA 'KO
TAKAW.
UM! AM! UM! ANG TSARAP NAMAN NITO.
MAGANDANG UMAGA 'MA.
DAHAN-DAHAN LANG ANAK BAKA KUNG MAPA'NO KA.
"HAY NAKU, BAKIT KAILANGANG MA-DAMAY PA AKO SA KAMALASANG ITO.....
ANG PAGIGING LATE. PALIBHA-SA MANTIKA KUNG MATULOG."
HALIKA NA! LATE NA LATE NA TAYO!
"SIYA NGA PALA, BUKOD SA PAGIGING ALARM CLOCK NG BEST FRIEND KO, SIYA NA RIN ANG SUNDO KO. GANDA 'NO."

SIGE MAG-IINGAT KAYO MGA ANAK.
PAALAM PO TITA.
'MA ALIS NA KAMI!
MAY GAGAWIN KA BA MAMAYA."
"WALA NAMAN, BAKIT?"
"GUSTO KO SANANG PUMUNTA TAYO SA PABORITONG LUGAR NATIN."
'YON LANG BA, SIGE."
"UH... SALAMAT NGA PALA RINA SA PAGTITIYAGA MO SA 'KIN... 'PANO 'KITA NA LANG TAYO."
"GINOONG HENRI LATE KA NA NAMAN SA KLASE!"
"PASENSIYA NA PO."
SIGE...
NAPAKAHALAGA SA KANYA NG LUGAR NA 'YON..... MADALAS NGA KAMI 'DON NOONG MGA BATA PA KAMI.
MABAIT SI HENRI AT MATALINO PA 'YON NGA LANG ASAL BATA MINSAN PERO HIGIT SA LAHAT (CUTE) MABUTING KAIBIGAN.
KUNG NANDITO KA LANG SANA
MAS MALIGAYA KAMI, NG ANAK NATIN.

ANG PAGTUTUOS.....

NG DALAWANG NILALANG.

IBIGAY MO SA AKIN ANG BATO!

HINDI MO MAAANGKIN ANG BATONG ITO.... HINDI KAILANMAN!

Kaboom

Woah

PAGDATING NG HAPON...

MA NANDITO NA 'KO.

HUH?

MUKHANG MAAGA KA YATA NGAYON HENRI.

ABSENT PO KASI SI MRS. SANTOS KAYA WALA PO KAMING KLASE SA HULING SUBJECT NAMIN.

"MUKHANG MAY PUPUNTAHAN KA AH? DATE N'YO NI RINA."

"MA?! PUPUNTA LANG KAMI SA PABORITO KONG LUGAR."

"O SIYA SIGE MAG-IINGAT KAYO DOON."

"OPO 'MA UNA NA 'KO."

AT NAGBUKAS ANG PINTO NA MAGDUDULOT NG KAGULUHAN AT MAGBIBIGAY KASAGUTAN...

MISS NA KITA..... PA.

HUH? ANO 'YON?

KAUNTING PANAHON NA LANG ANG NALALABI...

AKO SI DERUS NAPARITO AKO UPANG IPAGKALOOB SA IYO ANG KAPANGYARIHAN. TANGGAPIN MO ANG LAKAS NA TAGLAY NG MAHIWAGANG BATO!

'ANG LAHAT AY NAKATAKDA HENRI. ANG PAGLALABAN NG KASAMAAN AT KABUTIHAN'.

'I-IKAW ANG KAHULUGAN NG AKING PANAGINIP'.

'OO, AT IKAW ANG NAPILING TAGAPAGLIGTAS'.

'BAKIT AKO'?

'HINDI KO MAINTINDIHAN'.

'WALA NG PANAHON. HUWAG MONG HAYAANG MANGIBABAW ANG KASAMAAN.'

Wrraah
NASAAN ANG BATO!
NASA IYO ANG LAKAS.....
NANDITO NA SIYA.
HUH?! HINDI ITO MAAARI NAGBAGO NG ANYO ANG BATO! NGUNIT WALANG SINU-MAN ANG MAAARING HUMADLANG SA AKIN!
TANGING IKAW LAMANG ANG MAKA-GAGAPI KAY..
WALA!!!
Kashoo
AAAAAAH
ZEDUM!
GAMITIN MO ANG KAPANGYARIHANG TINATAGLAY MO.
NGUNIT PAANO...
MAGLALAHO KAYONG LAHAT!!!
HWWAA
BAHALA NA!

H-HINDI KO... K-KAYA
Shokoo
LUMABAN KA HENRI. HUWAG MONG HAYAANG MAWASAK ANG INYONG DAIGDIG.....
ANG MGA MAHAL MO SA BUHAY... ANG IYONG MGA ALA~ALA.
HUWAG MONG HAYAANG ITO'Y MAGLAHO SAPAG-KAT SILA LAMANG.....
MA...
RINA...
PA...
ANG TANGING NAGBIBIGAY SA IYO....
NANG PAG~ASA

You're Under Arrest

by Sherwin Nones

Taiho Shichauzo, otherwise known as ***You're Under Arrest***, in live action? Yes! The storyline for the live-action series is based upon the popular manga created by **Kosuke Fujishima**, which has already been released as an anime TV series, OAV series and a movie. It has nine episodes and was aired in Japan through station TV Asahi last October of 2002. Fans know that Kosuke Fujishima is also responsible for the hit ***Aa! Megami-sama*** (a.k.a. ***Oh! My Goddess***).

During a press conference, Fujishima said that he never thought *You're Under Arrest* would ever be dramatized into a live-action series since it was one of his first works. "The two main characters (in the live-action version) are better than the original image."

For those who are not familiar with the story of *You're Under Arrest*, it is an action-comedy about two female police officers with complete opposite personalities, who are teamed up in the same traffic division of Bokuto Station in Tokyo. Even though their main responsibility is just handing out tickets to parking violators, their over-enthusiasm and strong sense of justice prompts them to go beyond their duties and act recklessly. They are depicted as having a unique and aggressive approach to not only love and fashion, but to confronting dangerous felons and criminals as well.

Famous Japanese actress **Sachie Hara** portrays the intelligent and car-loving ***Miyuki Kobayakawa***. Hara stated at the press conference that she enjoyed dressing in costume as a police woman because she doesn't often get that opportunity. She also mentioned how her body ached after training for the role since the series has numerous action scenes.

Hara's co-star is **Misaki Ito**, another famous Japanese actress, who portrays the wild and powerful ***Natsumi Tsujimoto***. She is blessed with athletic abilities and skilled in martial arts - her trademark move is the "elbow drop". Ito described her character as "passionate and straightforward".

Other members of the cast include **Kazushige Nagashima**, the leading man who plays the character ***Ken Nakajima***, a tough motorcycle-riding officer. In the live-action series, as in the anime, there is a romantic twist between him and Miyuki.

SPOILER WARNING!!!

In the first episode, Miyuki and Natsumi are out patrolling the streets when they notice a mysterious vehicle parked on the side of the street. The strange vehicle does not have any numbers on its license plate. Their suspicions lead them to a nearby supermarket being held up by a group of armed robbers. Instead of calling for back-up, Miyuki and Natsumi decide to take matters in their own hands. They tear off their skirts (wow!) and ambush the robbers with their martial arts skills. Miyuki attacks one with a flying drop kick, then unmasks the suspect. However, to their surprise, it is their fellow officer Ken! That's when Miyuki and Natsumi discover they have interrupted a drill the police were conducting with the store employees as part of the crime prevention program. Their reckless behavior results in disciplinary action and a harsh lecture from the Bokuto Station section chief.

This live-action version of You're Under Arrest stays reasonably loyal to the manga and anime, although some aspects of the storyline have been altered for television. For example, a couple of new characters have been added and some characters present in the anime are absent, such as the transvestite co-worker ***Aoi***. Some of the fight scenes are not as effective live as they are in the manga or anime. Despite the efforts of the cast, the fights seem too choreographed and appear unrealistic, adding more comedy than excitement to the action scenes.

The soundtrack for the series is well chosen, especially the opening theme, a very upbeat dance track. The ending theme song, ***Through the Rain*** by **Mariah Carey**, emphasizes the more dramatic side of the series. It's a fitting ending song after every episode as the two main characters cruise in their police car at night after a day's work.

Overall, the live-action series is light and fun, and the two main characters are both cute and pretty. It has great potential and is a good addition to the collections of the millions of You're Under Arrest fans all over the world.

Information is courtesy of http://jdorama.com

Taiho Shichauzo!/You're Under Arrest! ©Kosuke Fujishima, TBS, Kodansha Ltd., Bandai Visual Co. Ltd., Marubani Corporation

Casefile 45-0929-98:

The Medina Disclosure

by Mark Navarro

CC COM ARTIST SPOTLIGHT FAST FACTS

Name: Apolonio Medina, Jr.
Nickname: Pol
Born: April 6, 1960
Credits:
Degree in Architecture, University of Santo Tomas (UST), 1983
Registered Architect, 1984
Engineer, Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Co. Manila
Copywriter, McCann-Ericson Philippines
Corporate member, United Architects of the Philippines (UAP)
Delinquent member, Samahang Kartunista ng Pilipinas (SKP)
Founded, Pol Medina Jr. Novelties, with his loving and patient wife, Susan
Interests:
- Reading espionage suspense-thriller novels like those written by **Jeffrey Archer**, **Tom Clancy**, **Robert Ludlum**, and the ***Harry Potter*** books. (*E diba mystery rin namin ang dating nung mga nun? Lusot!*)
- Watching action-adventure movies like ***Spider-Man***, ***X-2*** and ***Matrix Reloaded***.

"Nung napanood ko yung Matrix, *gusto kong sulatan sina* **Andy** *at* **Larry** *para ikuwento na lang sakin! Meron naman akong naintindihan, kaya lang yung dialogue sa dulo gusto ko talagang ulitin. Pano niya napigilan yung* squids? *Nag-*rub off *yung* powers *niya sa loob ng* Matrix *hanggang sa labas? Theory ko dun, nakagat siya ng* spider *e. Siguro pag andyan na yung* ***Revolutions*** *saka mo lang madudugtong."*

- *"Enjoy ako sa mga ganun e. Minsan naiinis yung misis ko. Ang sabi ko kailangan ko yan sa trabaho ko, yung makapanood ako ng mga* comics style, *yung mga* ***Equilibrium***. *Ang tingnan mo yung* premise *na yung pinag-aawayan natin e yung mga* emotions *natin. Ang nakikita lang kasi ng iba e yung barilan, yung* violence. *Pero ang kino-*collect *ko dyan yung mga* time-less, *yung mga* ***Jerry Maguire***. *Gusto ko nung mga wala na ako sa sine, mag-isa na lang ako, nailyak ako."*

What he thinks of Culture Crash:

- *"Yung itsura niya, yung pagka-*anime, *malayo na yung* techniques *kesa dun sa ginagamit sa* TV. *Kung tutuusin yung mga* coloring techniques *na ginagamit niyo, di pa ginagamit sa* mainstream. *So may* original input *pa rin. Nasa texto naman yung* identity *ng pagka-Pinoy e."*
- *"Bata pa ko e nanonood na ko ng* anime, *lalo na yung* ***Voltes V***. *Kahit yung mga anak ko naa-*appreciate *nila yung* manga/anime style.

In 1988, the comic strip Pugad Baboy debuted in the pages of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. From the get-go, it captured the hearts and minds of the Filipino with its humorous but frank portrayal of life in the Philippines. Aside from usual jokes and puns (standard fare for comic strips), it also stepped into satire; poking fun at all aspects of society. From pop culture to politics, nothing was spared from it's clever introspective.

15 years later Pugad Baboy is still growing fat – este, strong. The comic strip has skyrocketed to fame, with all the attendant developments that come along with it. It has spawned 15 compilation books (one a year), merchandise like t-shirts and stuffed toys, even a brief but memorable TV series called ***Rated Pang-Bayan: Pugad Baboy sa TV***. It is no doubt the most popular local comic strip in recent history.

Pugad Baboy is the name of the village where the comic strip is set. In Tagalog, *pugad* is "nest" and *baboy* is "pig", thus Pugad Baboy literally means "nest of pigs". True enough, most of the characters living there are, shall we say, in the pink of health. (Incidentally, there is a real Pugad Baboy in Bulacan, a village known for its piggeries.)

But who is the cartoonist behind Pugad Baboy? What do we really know about **Pol Medina Jr.**? First, let's review what we already have on him, the facts that are public. After that, we will divulge new information, gathered in the course of writing this article, that support a startling yet undeniable conclusion!

Pol had just graduated from the College of Fine Arts and Architecture of the University of Santo Tomas, when he was hired to work in Iraq. Although this was during the height of the Iran-Iraq War, Pol was quite safe since they were located very far from the frontlines.

"Wala ngang kabuhay-buhay. May giyera ba? Pumupunta pa kami sa Basra *o kaya sa may* Turkey *para lang manood ng gera. Kasi di umaabot sa amin, nasa gitna kami e."*

Pol remembers that you could tell who the newcomers were when the air raid siren sounded, since they would be running for the shelters. Pol and his mates would shout at them, *"Hindi babagsak yan dyan!"* And besides, the shelters assigned to the Filipinos weren't going to be of much use anyway since their emergency stockpile of canned goods had long been eaten up as *pulutan*.

While in Iraq, Pol was involved in the construction of refineries. These structures were colored brown so that enemy reconnaissance planes could not see them from the air. Even pipes, which must be color-coded for identification and safety, were colored brown and the color-coding was placed underneath the pipes instead.

Pol returned to the Philippines in 1987 with loads of dollars from his overseas stint, and promptly entered into several unfortunate business deals which ate up much of those savings. Not one to be discouraged, he decided to go in a different direction. Pol put together 12 comic strips that he had worked on during his free time in Iraq, and proceeded to Intramuros in Manila, where all the major newspapers had their offices. He was aiming for the ***Manila Bulletin*** as it was the market leader at the time but he had gotten lost in the streets of the walled city. When he asked a bystander for directions, he was given the wrong ones and he ended up at a fairly new periodical, the ***Philippine Daily Inquirer***. Pol went ahead and showed his work to chief artist **Jess Abrera** who liked them so much that he immediately had them scheduled for printing. The rest is history.

That brings us to the present day and our interview. We relied on our video camera to record the audio portion and didn't bother anymore with the video. We placed the camera on the table focused on Pol's torso and this led to comparisons to the investigative TV show ***Mission X***. When I asked innocently how the show's agents hide their cameras, Pol revealed a surprising amount of knowledge about the subject.

"Ang gamit nila yung mga camera na talag-ang maliit pa dyan. Parang yung mga sa casino, *yung sinasaksak lang sa dingding. Meron na dito nun e."*

"Meron ka?" I ventured.

"Mm. Nakakabit sa banyo." Pol replied with a wheezy chuckle. *"Sa* internet *lang naman lum-alabas e."* For the rest of our stay, I fought the urge to go to the bathroom.

We went upstairs to Pol's study where he works on Pugad Baboy. We noticed a punching bag hanging and he casually mentioned that he took up aikido and kendo before. Uh-huh. While the rest of us gathered around Pol's computer, Jon and Memer proceeded to set up the drawing tablet. This time we noticed quite a few first-person shooter games on the PC's desktop. Pol said that those aren't his and must belong to his children, Maia and E.J. Again, uh-huh.

As Elmer gave a demonstration of the drawing tablet's capabilities, I pondered the events of the day and the interesting tidbits I learned about Pol Medina Jr. And that's when it struck me!

Espionage suspense-thriller novels? Multiple identities? (see sidebars) Martial arts? First-person shooter games? A "contract" working for an Italian boss in a war-torn Middle East country, a job which he was paid very handsomely for? The pieces of the puzzle finally fell into place.

Clearly, Pol Medina Jr. is an international spy! That is how he's able to include so much detail when writing about Polgas's undercover operations as secret agent Dobermaxx. Well, do you have a better explanation? The only other possibility is just too far-fetched for consideration – that Pol Medina Jr. is simply a very talented creator, one who has left his unique mark on the Filipino consciousness with a delightful comic strip that has endured for more than a decade.

So there you have it! The shocking truth about Pol Medina Jr. Tell your friends you heard it first from Culture Crash! ■

Pugad Baboy, its logo and all related characters are ™ and ©2003 of Pol Medina Jr. All rights reserved.

▲ Pugad Baboy – the village where treasured Filipino folk beliefs can mix with blunt humor over liquor and popcorn.

Pol's Frequently Used Aliases

The characters of Pugad Baboy are so successful in portraying the subtleties of Filipino culture because they are parodies of actual people, most of whom Pol knows or has dealt with personally. But which character does Pol identify with most?

"Tatlo e. Si Mang Dagul, kasi makakalbo na ko. Hindi, kasi yun yung serious side *ko."*

Hard to believe that Pol Medina could have a serious side (especially with an answer like that), but he has shown it, and for the whole nation to see! In 1996, the Philippine Daily Inquirer 's chief artist Jess Abrera took leave from work and during his 3-week absence, Pol was handpicked by none other than the editor-in-chief to fill in as editorial cartoonist.

Adagulfo Sungcal Jr., or Mang Dagul, is the *padre de familia*. He is a bastion of maturity and composure to the rest of his family, especially since he is constantly made the butt of jokes by their bitchy house help, Brosia.

*"Pangalawa si Utoy, dahil sa pagka-isip bata ko. Nung nag-*OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker) *ako sa Iraq,* OCW (Overseas Contract Worker) *pa nga tawag noon, ang tawag sa akin e Utoy, kasi ako yung pinakabata sa amin."*

Adagulfo Sungcal III, or Utoy, is Mang Dagul's mischievous 8-year old son. Not a day goes by that he doesn't play a prank on someone at home or in school.

"Pangatlo si Polgas, yung adventurous side *ko. Kasi lagi kaming nagca-*capers *nung mga kababata ko."*

Polgas, which literally means "dog tick" in Tagalog, is Mang Dagul's pet dog. This is no ordinary dog however as Polgas behaves just like a human – he can talk and even discusses politics and current events with his master over bottles of beer. As if that's not enough, Polgas hides a secret identity as Dobermaxx (formerly Wisedog), a crimefighting hero skilled in local martial arts and carrying his patented Garapata Gun!

"Sa Iraq *ako nagka-aso. Pinamana siya sa akin nung isang pinoy. Sabi sa akin, ikaw na mag-alaga nyan. Siguro dalawang araw ko pa lang siyang aso, may* bonding *na kami."*

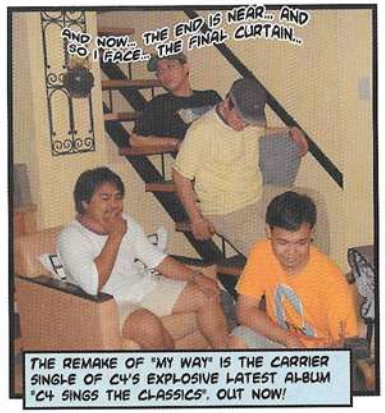
"Yung mga boss *naming Italiano kasi may ugali na iniiwan yung kanilang* designer shoes *sa labas ng* trailer *nila. Ninanakaw nung aso ko yun! Kinukuha tapos dinadala sa akin.* Size *ko pa ha! Nung sinabi ko kaila-ngan ko ng* teflon pad, *narinig niya, ninakaw rin niya ako nun. Kaya ko ginawang nagsasalita si Polgas. Dun ko pinattern sa aso na yun kasi pa-rang nagkakaintindihan talaga kami."*

"Sayang lang nung nakuha ko, mala-ki na tapos di ko na maiuwi. Tinanong ko kung pwede kong i-uwi e ang daming kung anu-ano pa, may bakuna, may quarantine. *Bibilhan mo pa siya ng* passport *na may litrato tapos may* description: Iraqi dog!"

CCCom Extra: Sa Pugad ni Pol

ISANG ARAW, ANG CCCOM STAFF AY NAGSAGAWA NG ISANG ROAD TRIP PAPUNTA SA TAHANAN NI POL MEDINA JR. ANG KANILANG MATAYOG NA LAYUNIN, TURUAN SI POL NA GUMAMIT NG DRAWING TABLET SA KANYANG TRABAHO.

ON THE 2ND FLOOR IS POL'S STUDY, WHERE ABSTRACT IDEAS ARE TRANSFORMED INTO TANGIBLE IMAGES ON PAPER. THIS IS WHERE THE MAGIC OF PUGAD BABOY HAPPENS, PEOPLE!



DITO NAGWAWAKAS ANG KAPUKAW-PUKAW NA PAGLALAKBAY AT PAKIKIPAGSAPALARAN NG MAGITING NA CCCOM STAFF. SAANG DAKO NA NAMAN MULI MAPAPADPAD ANG ATING MGA BIDA?

ABANGAN!

The Wonderful World of

GHIBLI MUSEUM

by Jescie James Palabay

Situated on the west end of Inokashira Park in the quaint city of Mitaka stands what seems to be an architectural oddity in urban Japan. From the outside, the ***Ghibli Museum*** looks like a gigantic old-style Italian home in the mountains, but in fun pastel color combinations.

First opened on October 1, 2001, the Ghibli Museum stands as one of the most popular cultural facilities in Japan. It is so popular that ticket reservations have to be made three months in advance. It is a museum dedicated to the art of animation and the works of **Studio Ghibli**, and a testament to the talent of director **Hayao Miyazaki**. (*see profile on next page*)

The location itself accentuates the desired effect of the museum: relaxed and idyllic. There are no parking areas – to get there, you would have to take the bus or train then take a short walk through or by the park. Walking to the unassuming entrance of the museum under the cool shade of trees felt very much as natural as taking a leisurely Sunday walk. Upon entering, you are greeted by what appears to be a ticket booth guarded by a gigantic ***Totoro***! I tell you, ***Tammy Tamaraw*** would make a great photo-op partner for this guy!

After taking in a few peeks, you will start to realize that Totoro is only there to guide you to the real entrance, and so you walk on towards it. Simple and conservative outside, the museum wows you the moment you enter. The ticketing area is such a stunning place of color and life that you actually slow down for a moment and lose the feel to hurry yourself to the counter. Looking around at the lavishly painted walls and ceiling, I spotted ***Kiki*** on her broom, ***Nausicaä*** on her glider, and the ***Cat-Bus*** dangling around! It put me in a state of wonderment and instilled an eager need for exploration. Upon surrendering your reservation coupon, you get a ticket made from 35mm film prints that were used in theaters. Getting past the ticketing booth you go down some stairs and enter the Central Hall, "where the wind whistles and the light shines through". Every visitor is then free to choose their own path and explore without restriction, although there is one rule: no picture taking inside.

Inside, the museum exudes a very European sense of style and architecture. The stained glass with Ghibli characters were especially neat. Around the ground floor there is a darkened room with several amazing examples of different animation techniques. The seeming centerpiece of this area was a semi-circular exhibit that featured live 3-D animation, utilizing strobe lights and skillfully crafted sculptures of the characters from the movie ***My Neighbor Totoro***. This place was amazing! I've been to three ***Disneylands*** and I've never seen anything that could compare to things I saw in here. Also located on the ground floor was a lavishly crafted movie theatre featuring an original short film that was somewhat of a sequel to My Neighbor Totoro. The theater had windows that automatically opened after the movie to let the sun shine in. The projection area is fashioned like an old train, except in transparent glass, so you can actually see how the projector and operator works.

On the second floor, there are several rooms designed to appear as though an animator has just left for a short break or something. You can find a lot of nifty stuff you can tinker with here. Adjacent to these rooms is another screening room only smaller, where another original Ghibli film, this time of ***Porco Rosso***, is being shown. You can also find an actual replica of a glider there.

On the third floor, there are several shops and of course the Cat-Bus play area where a gigantic life-size stuffed toy of the Cat-Bus lies free for children to play around in. There's also a veranda with a spiral staircase which leads up to the roof garden with this giant ***Laputa*** robot.

There's a cozy patio outside the museum where you can find, under the gazebo, an old style water pump driven by hand that actually works! Everything here is meticulously designed, and the area is rich with handcrafted ornaments.

Finally there's the café, painted in lively red and orange and surrounded by some rare red pines. It serves both hot and cold meals and gets everything from organic farms. It is a great place to sit down, relax and let time pass leisurely by.

Visiting the Ghibli Museum was an unforgettable experience! It is indeed a place where one could explore freely, unbound by directions or instructions. A place where you could find your own adventure and not only discover and learn the various concepts and ideas surrounding animation, but also the feeling of being animated yourself! It is a place where children are treated like adults and adults feel young again. It is not just one exhibit or one area that makes the Ghibli Museum stand out, but the whole entirety it and that makes it one of the most enriching experiences one could ever have.

Special thanks to Mr. Yasuki Hamano and curator Kan Miyoshi

Picture Picture

James had a really great time exploring every nook and cranny of the Ghibli Museum

HAYAO MIYAZAKI

DIRECTOR

Born in 1941 in Tokyo, **Hayao Miyazaki** joined the Toei Animation Company shortly after graduating from Gakushuin University. He became involved in TV animation series, many in collaboration with director **Isao Takahata**. He made his feature film debut in 1979 with a ***Lupin III*** movie entitled ***The Castle of Cogliostro*** (***Cogliostro no Shiro***).

Miyazaki first gained international attention in 1984 when he made the eco-themed ***Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*** (***Kaze no Tani no Nausicaä***). Then in 1985 he co-founded **Studio Ghibli**, and has since directed seven critically acclaimed movies, including the classic favorite ***My Neighbor Totoro*** (***Tonari no Totoro***), the high-flying ***Kiki's Delivery Service*** (***Majo no Takkyubin***), and the epic ***Princess Mononoke*** (***Mononoke Hime***). His most recent film, ***Spirited Away*** (***Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi***) broke all box office records in Japan and became the highest grossing film of all time (domestic and international) and even won the Academy Award for Best Animated Film.

Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind

Porco Rosso

Princess Mononoke

Spirited Away

Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind ©Nibariki/Tokuma Shoten
Porco Rosso, Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away ©Studio Ghibli

COMICS

ARMOR TROOPERS TERRA:2050

THE FINAL BATTLE, A GREAT VICTORY!

By Syeri

A great victory for an independent comic has taken place! The release of ***ARMOR Troopers'*** 12th issue marks the end of its saga. True that it is rare for an independent comic to start and actually finish these days but **Armand Roy Canlas**, author and artist of ARMOR Troopers, has broken that with this achievement.

After 2 years in the ***Myths and Legends Creative Studios*** and having no results, Armand was inspired to finally make his own comic, which was his dream ever since high school. Not having much income to produce a co lored comic, he remembered the format of a comic that he once bought at U.P. Diliman, ***Modus 3***. The story Armand Roy used was based on a role-playing game (RPG) that he created, based on the rules of the ***Marvel*** RPG. ARMOR Troopers was created in a month's time and first came out in February of 2002. It was also first sold in U.P. Diliman. The response was incredible. The group later took the step of selling the comic in stores and things went uphill from then on.

The comic came out every month, which was one of the earlier achievements that was noticed by many. Armand later got the attention of other comic artists which resulted in guest appearances, receiving great reviews, and getting new projects. ARMOR Troopers also made its way through the prestigious event, the ***C3Con***. The comic was one out of the six finalists in the Independent Comic Book Contest that was held then. And now, after more than a year, ARMOR Troopers has at last reached its concluding issue.

The Story

In the year 2030, after a comet had passed by the Earth, plant life withers and dies for no apparent reason. The planet is in danger as bodies of water dry up, leaving the two poles as the only source of water. The two poles are protected by biospheres and housed by two world powers, the ***Terran-Confederation*** and the ***Colonial Union***. They are at war – as one strives to revitalize the Earth's eco-system, the other gathers what's left of the planet and starts a colony on the Moon as well as on Mars.

Conflict later erupts as drones of an unknown origin appear and threaten the existence of the two confederations. Enter the ***Black Angels***, a group of elite soldiers led by ***Janus Cross***. With him are ***Lt. Bel Damaris*** (***Chalice***), ***Sgt. Deacon Malchus*** (***Grail***), ***Pvt. Ian Jester*** (***Temple***), ***Crpl. Terri Hudson*** (***Church***) and ***Pvt. Riyo Boeman*** (***Priest***).

Also in their group is their trusted Tech Engineer, ***Nadia Turner*** (***Circuit***). They are given advanced exo-frames that can perform the tasks of both tanks and fighters, the Armored Mechanized Ordinance (AR.M.OR) Troopers. As the Black Angels enter their missions, Janus discovers more of his past. He also unexpectedly falls in love in the midst of war when he meets ***Princess Christelle*** of the Colonial Union, who was supposedly their enemy.

ARMOR Troopers, 12 issues of mecha action with a love story you can follow! Congratulations to Armand Roy Canlas, who has been recognized both for his great mecha designs and this accomplishment of finishing his saga. Expect more comics from him soon but in the meantime, visit Armand's website *www.mythslegends.tk* and see more of his works.

Php25.00 Issues 1-11 (20 pages: B&W Cover and Insides)
Php50.00 Issue 12 (Double Sized B&W Insides w/ Full Colored Cover)
Written in English
Available at ComicQuest Branches (SM Megamall and SM North), Central Comic Headquarters (CCHQ) in Katipunan and Hobby Zone

©Armand Roy Canlas/Myths and Legends Productions

ULTRAJON ON

HOW WE DRAW 12

THE NEED FOR SPEEDLINES

So you think you've created the most kick-ass action scene ever drawn in the whole comic book industry. You've got the coolest action poses and battle stances ever dreamt of, some of which aren't even possible. Suddenly, **WHAM!** Out of nowhere, you come to a realization, *"parang me kulang, parang patay, walang buhay"*. Then in your most critical lucid moment of editing yourself, you come to judge your "perfect creation" and you think, what else could I add to this breathtaking piece of work? Perhaps what are missing in your masterpiece are ***speed lines***.

What are speedlines? Speedlines are a visual tool most commonly employed by manga / comicbook artists to emphasize movement, speed (hence the term) or even drama. Wow! Can a bunch of lines really deliver the message you want? Of course, if done at the right place, at the right time, at the right angle, in the right sequence, they surely can. Now you ask, how do you apply speed lines? Let me share what little I know.

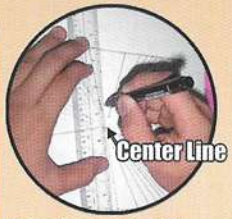
The Tools

Before anything else, you need a good grasp of how to use the various tools needed to create speedlines. Pigment ink liners and quill pens are the most commonly used tools to draft them. Rulers such as straight-edged rulers, rolling rulers, and a T-square are great tools in maintaining the evenness of the lines, while French Curves and Curved Rulers are perfect for those curved speedlines. In some cases though, talented illustrators like Boss IQ40 don't even bother using them since he can manually render speedlines freehand. Others, like most of us here in the office use the computer (ahehehehe).

Lines Used for Simulating Movement

▲The horizontal lines accent the illustration's movement creating the illusion of speed and urgency.

NOTE: *Sa pag-guhit ng mga linya ang pag-iba-iba ng kapal nito ay nakakadagdag sa ilusyon ng pag-galaw ng inyong* drawing. Fading and tapering (to gradually thin your line) are also great ways to simulate movement in your illustrations.



Note: In making radial speedlines make a point of convergence (a center point) then draft your lines from this point outward.

◀The radial speedlines give more emphasis to the character's movement giving the effect that he is coming towards you.

Lines Used for Depicting Drama

▲Aside from depicting motion, radial speedlines can also represent emotions such as surprise, awe, excitement, anger and even happiness.

▲Using evenly spaced vertical lines can simulate a somber mood.

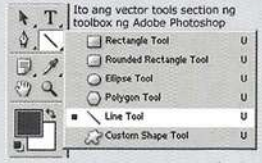
▲Using overlapping vertical speedlines also present an interesting effect when combined with a dramatic expression.

Heh! I'm out of space already. Try experimenting with speedlines; in addition to it being a great visual tool for simulating movement and drama, it also lessens the backgrounds you have to draw (hehehehe). Be careful of overdoing it though, for while speedlines can enhance your drawing, too much of them can also ruin it. Aside from being background filler, integrating speedlines in your drawing (overlapping it with your line art) also lends awesome effects to your artwork. There are a lot of other ways of using speedlines, so keep practicing and learn techniques on your own.

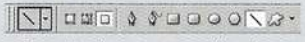
DIGITAL SPEEDLINES

Pag-gawa ng Speedlines Gamit ang Computer

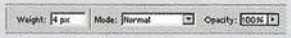
Sa pamamagitan ng *Adobe Photoshop* maaaring ipagpaliban na ang pag-guhit ng mga linya gamit ang tradisyunal na pamamaraan. Narito ang bahag-bahagdang paraan kung paano ito ginagawa.



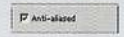
Sa *tool bar* ng inyong *Photoshop* piliin lamang ang *Line tool*. Ito ay matatagpuan sa *vector tool section* kasama ng *Pen Tool* at *Text Tool*.



Sa *option bar* naman, piliin ninyo ang *option* na *fill pixels* tulad ng sa itaas.



Pansinin din na merong mga *options* tulad ng *weight*, *mode* at *opacity*. Ang *weight* ang nag-dedetermina ng kapal ng inyong linya.



Wag kalimutang i-tsek ang *Anti-Aliased option* upang maging mas *crisp* at mukhang solido ang inyong linya.

Gumawa ng bagong *layer* at dito magsimulang gumawa ng linya. Tandaan lamang na i-*hold down* ang *shift button* tuwing gumagawa ng linya upang manatiling tuwid at pantay ang inyong mga linya.

2nd PHILIPPINE TOYS & COLLECTIBLES CONVENTION 2003

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." So goes the saying, reminding us to kick back and relax once in a while lest the stress drive us mad. Of course, the opposite "all play and no work" wouldn't be good for Jack either. We all have responsibilities that we can't put off or ignore. Besides if you didn't work, where would you get the money to buy the toys to play with, hm? So the challenge is to maintain that fine balance between obligation and recreation.

But what if work and play could go hand-in-hand? "What?!" you say. "That's crazy talk! Is that possible?" Indeed, could such a paradise be found where business and pleasure intermingle peacefully?

Well, such a utopia did exist even if it was just for one day. The *2nd Philippine Toys and Collectibles Convention*, presented by *Collectibles Unlimited*, was held last Saturday, June 21 at the Conference Center Function Rooms of SM Megamall. Of course, the Jacks of CC Com were there (just try to keep us away!) to launch Culture Crash issue 11, and to sell back issues and t-shirts. CC Com also shouldered the printing of the convention's posters.

The room was jam-packed with exhibitors and attendees, toys and collectibles enthusiasts all. The items for sale and on display ranged from the very old to the very new, with many items coming from the late 1970's up to the 90's. The most often sighted toys were *Kenner's Star Wars* action figures, *Hasbro's Transformers* robots, *Toy Biz's Marvel Super-heroes* action figures, and *McFarlane Toys' Spawn* action figures. Let the boisterous reminiscing begin!

There were many cool activities throughout the day. Plenty of special items were put up for auction including: authentic *NBA* merchandise, a complete set of *The Man of Steel* 6-issue comic book mini-series plus variant cover, a poster calendar of Japanese cutie Kyoko Fukuda, an on-the-spot sketch of Princess by *Battle of the Planets* artist Wilson Tortosa, and framed *Card Captor Sakura* and *Rurouni Kenshin* cross-stitch!

The award-winning *Gundam Girl* Krizelle Uychinco graced the occasion and gamely posed on stage for pictures with hosts DJ Cholo and Azrael Coladilla. *Level-Up Games* had their "Toss the Poring" contest where you could win limited edition *Ragnarok Online* trading cards and Poring dolls if you could shoot the Poring doll into the plastic buckets. And for some reason, despite their first appearance at the *New Worlds Sci-Fi and Fantasy Convention*, the *Stormballs* were still allowed to perform! They interrupted the music provided by popular radio station *99.5 RT* to perform their amusing dance number to the tune of the *Village People's YMCA*.

PICTURE PICTURE>>>

▶ Jon Suarez and Tammy Tamayo pose proudly with their extensive collection of *Coca-Cola* memorabilia. Their oldest items were bottles from as far back as 1953, before Coca-Cola had adopted the now familiar curvy and ribbed shape. They also had bottles and cans from various countries all over the world like China, Korea and Saudi Arabia, and special editions commemorating such important events like the Olympics and the World Cup.

◀ Level-Up Games Community Manager for Ragnarok Online, Carlo Rufino [right] with the assistance of Joseph, gave away CDs of the highly engrossing MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game).

▶ Local comic book artists Jaclyn Lim, Gerry Alanguilan (*Wasted, Stone*), Carlo Vergara (*One Night in Purgatory, Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah*), Lyndon Gregorio (*Beerkada, Stricken*), Ariel Atienza (*Class, POParazzi*) [seated] and Joanah Tinio (*Cresci Prophecies*) [standing] frenziedly sign and sketch for their fans at the Hobbyzone booth.

▲ Toys, toys, toys...

◀ It's a thankless job but someone's got to do it. Hosts DJ Cholo and Azrael side by side with the real-life *Gundam Girl*. Watch those hands Az!

This convention was real fun. I felt there was a nicer mix of toys and collectibles here than the first time, with items for all preferences and price ranges. Even if you didn't have money to spend, it was enjoyable to just walk around and browse. Nostalgic tripping! I think they can move up to a larger venue as indicated by the incredibly long line outside the Conference Center, though I hope they can peg the entrance fee at 20 pesos or thereabouts.

The only snag to this whole event's success was that Memer was once again unable to purchase the new and very much improved *Masters of the Universe Trap Jaw* action figure. Oh well, I guess there's always the next convention...

The Otaku Tourist

CCCOM GRAFFITI

As with every new batch of fanart we receive, we are continuously shocked by the quality of work and skill of our fans.

It just takes our breath away everytime. Keep sending them in folks!!! We find great inspiration each time you do! Plus there's no better way to show us your work than sending in fanart!

Don't be shy: Send your stuff! We're always ready to receive them, and post as many of them as our fan pages can accomodate.

IPADALA LAMANG ANG INYONG MGA GAWA SA:
Culture Crash Comics, 67 Gen. Ordoñez St. Marikina Heights, Marikina City 1811
O DI KAYA SA
fanart@culturecrash.com
TANDAAN LAMANG NA:
Fanart must be no bigger than 8.5"x11". Those who submitted by e-mail must be no bigger than 300kb. One attachment per e-mail. Zipped files are highly recommended

NICA & HAORA

RYAN OROSCO

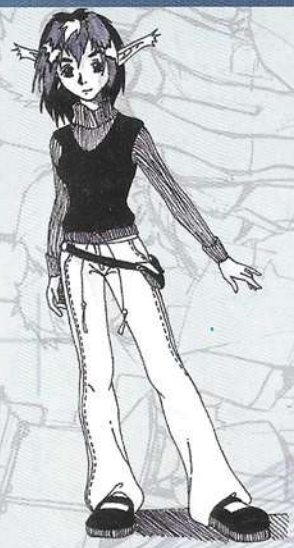
MARCO SARROCA

SQUIRE DEN

NIKKO VALENZUELA

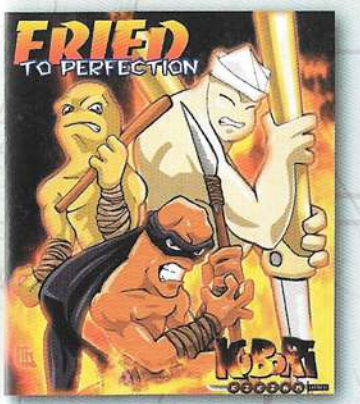
KIEREN

EDUARD AGBAY

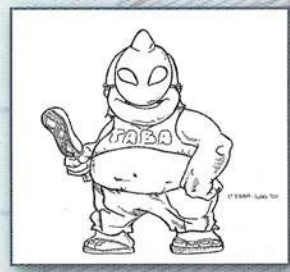


SPINELY

GERRY PERANDO



RINGO BAUTISTA



MYX ESPIRITU

SYERI

J-NELL SORIANO

COLUMBIA KH

CCCOM PICK OF THE MONTH!!!

Benjoe's Taga-Ilog Fantasy Shooting Game

Noticing the odd recurring theme of Ilog getting beaten up in other fans' works, hard core Taga-Ilog fan Benjoe made this game to even things out for the staff's resident buckethead. Enter Taga-Ilog's Fantasy Shooting Game, where Ilog has to shoot down hordes of rabid Memer 2s and restore sanity to the world. The best feature this game has to offer is that when you reach 10,000 points you enter Godmode, YEEHA!! Hindi ito basta-bastang game, me backstory pa... Benjoe next time sana tapusin mo na 'to.

We've always believed in the talent in the Filipino artist. You prove us right each time you send us artwork. Say it proudly...

YES! DA FILIPINO KEN!!!

Mikel Santiago

Kiko Gualdrapa

Brian Valeza

Joharra Osmeña

Marco Bautista

Felix Caballero Jr

Edgar Joseph Bocar

Mark Cezar

Ram Lee

Blood Rhapsody

Alec Leido

Send your artworks to the CCCom Office or at fanart@culturecrash.com

LETTERS to the staff

Write us at: feedback@culturecrash.com or at J.C. Palabay Ent., Inc./ Culture Crash Comics 67 Gen. Ordoñez St. Marikina Heights, Marikina City 1811

Dear Culture Crash Team,

A toast to the founders of CCCom! Your product is a certified icon in the industry of Filipino comics, no longer qualified as "one-hit wonders" or "once in a blue moon".

A crash of good marketing strategy and a creative production group. But where did the Butterfly go?

Now the Kikiam is out in the kitchen to fill in whatever hole or pages lost, now on the table getting ready for any possible criticisms that would come.

I confess, I don't read all of the stories in the issues, two and a half stories out of four only. But after issue 5, everything's changed. Culture Crash is slowly evolving into something much bigger – but I hope not too slow. The gap of time the issues were released had somehow affected the effectivity of the stories, which is what Harry Potter book 5 almost got into. Three years of waiting almost put the reader's patience on the edge of quitting.

But my hopes were always up for you guys, because we, your avid readers felt the commitment and energy you put into your stories. Just like what makes Linkin Park very special.

Your expansion is a good sign. In fact, one of your new crew there is a very creative person. His dreams have taken him to great heights, and his source of inspiration is overwhelming. Take good care of him, he's a fine addition to your team.

CCCom is an alarm clock, occasionally ringing the bells and calling all Filipino artists to stop daydreaming, just like me. In fact, writing a simple fan mail is already a big accomplishment for me... especially if this reached your doorstep.

Issue number 11 really glued me to the chair reading, going through all the healthy stuff stored in your magazine. I read all the stories. Yep, all of them. Good work CCCom.

Talkatively Yours,
Olivia L. Escartin
a.k.a. Green Olive
RO char: byabya
Quezon City

To Sir Tiga-Kanal (Michael David) & Sir Taga-Ilog,

Hi! Hello! Kumusta po kayo? Hope u get this fan art of mine. I'm just your avid fan at sinusubaybayan ko po ang bawat labas ng inyong obrang Kubori Kikiam sa Culture Crash at maging sa inyong indie. Nakita ko po na inilalagay niyo ang mga artworks ng mga fans sa website niyo & I just visited it last week, astig! Walang duda na karapat-dapat kayong parangalan ng 'Web Awards'

Sana po makita ko ang gawa ko pag nag-internet uli ako. Pleeeeaassse!! It will be the best b-day gift for me this coming July! Please... kung di man, sa coming Culture Crash issue niyo na lang i-publish.

Kailan po ulit magkakaroon ng animé event na kayo ang mag-iispearhead? Sana magkaroon ulit ng 'Independent Comic Booth'. Gusto ko pong mag-participate at i-showcase ang aking mga obrang gawa!! Sana magkaroon ng issue ang Kubori na colored...

Ang inyong kakosa,
Nikko F. Valenzuela
San Pedro, Laguna

Regarding an anime event that we will spearhead, can you read minds? Plans are already being made for the second C3Con tentatively scheduled for December 13 and 14 this year. All your favorite booths and gimmicks from the first C3Con will return, plus many new and exciting ones! We'll announce the details here in Culture Crash as soon as they are finalized.

Your mag is really awesome y'know. I just read your ish 11 and you said the winner in the cosplay at K-Zone's Anime Zone is Miranda. I think there's a mishap cuz I'm the winner and my name is not Miranda. Now my mates don't believe that I won cuz the name written there is MIRANDA. Sorry for this letter but your mag is great and I was the one who introduced your mag to my class (*kapal noh?*) More power and God bless!

Nadia Leetian

Our contest winners data from K-Zone got mixed-up. We apologize for the error. And thanks for promoting Culture Crash to your class. Just don't read it *during* class, OK?

Elow po sa inyong lahat na nandyan!

I'm really glad about the free Ragnarok CD dun po sa issue #11... ang saya-saya! May mga issues po ako na na-miss dahil low on budget ako... pero swerte! Kung kelan may budget dun may napakagandang free...

Oo nga pala, madami po akong na-miss dahil ang last issue na nabili ko ay... 8? Hehe... pero kahit ganun ay di parin po ako nakakalimot...

Grabe, I could tell that you people are really talented... ang ganda-ganda po nilang lahat! kahit na di ko na masundan most of it, nagpapakwento nalang ako dun sa mga kumpleto...

I would like to ask about the comic feature thingy... I'm just a little bothered on how I should draw the thingy on the paper... should it be in landscape format or portrait?

I'm bothered with regards to these standard operating procedures... sana po paki-clarify yung ilang detalye.

I hope that you can answer my question, at least by replying to this e-mail. I would really appreciate it, and I understand that it would take some time dahil busy po kayo dyan. Sana po masagot ninyo ang tanong ko nang sa ganoon ay masimulan ko po ang aking pagdra-drawing!

Nangangarap,
Aki
via the Internet

No problem. Our Fan Feature is very popular and we always get a lot of questions about it. Traditionally, comics are in portrait format but feel free to orient it any way you want. We're looking forward to your submission!

Wow! I greet you guys for having a very wonderful comicbook. I can't believe that a Filipino (although I know that we can) could do a state-of-the-art masterpiece (or masterpieces). Ang galing specially your 10th and 11th issue!

Actually, those are the only copies that I have, but you can't blame me. I've only seen Culture Crash on the TV ad with Jun kissing Clarissa (during the DBZ anime on GMA). And speaking of ads, big-time na talaga kayo. I have Alfred as my logo!

Anywayz, your previous issue was a... (I can't think of an adjective). You really proved that J.L. Palabay is an Entertainment Company. And thank you for the CD, I really had fun playing the thief! And your Matrix Article, now I understand the movie, especially the Animatrixes! And Meteor Garden... thanx! (Shan Cai is really beautiful.)

Can I ask you a serious question guys? (Hindi naman kayo makakatanggi.) After your advertisements on the TV, will there ever be a possibility that I can watch Jun kiss Clarissa on Philippine television? As in an anime ODID? Or Pasig? Or Kikiam? Or Cat's Trail? As in, the 1st All-Filipino Anime based on a comic book! Wow! I can't wait to see that.

Thanx guys for this wonderful gift you're giving to anime-loving Filipinos! Much more victories guys! Prove that I am wrong in doubting our talent. Yes da Filipino ken!!!!!

Hoping that the next issue will be out early, and costs P85,

Marvin Tolfo a.k.a. oflot in Ragnarok
via the Internet

We'd love to see a Culture Crash anime! But right now we're pouring all our time and effort into the printed version. Maybe in a few years... who knows?

Guys you're so great! Nag-iimprove na talaga kayo! Keep up the good work! Ang bilis kasi, e. In just 2 months nagkaroon agad ng kasunod ang ish 10! And may libre pang CD! Too bad wala akong PC.

I really like your article about the symposium in Japan. It really means na WORLD-CLASS kayo. I was really surprised na nakilala niyo, in person, ang Father of Gundam Yoshiyuki Tomino!! Gusto ko rin yung article niyo tungkol sa Gundam Seed. ASTEEG!!!!!!!!!!!! Sya nga pala, I'm a Gundam fan (obvious naman sa pangalan di ba?)

Saka di ba humihingi kayo ng suggestions kung anong comic book ang pwedeng mag-fill up habang wala pang Solstice? Well, suggestion ko lang na gumawa kayo ng isang may Mecha genre. Ayos yun! Puro na lang kasi tao ang laman ng CCCom. Oo siguro yung Pasig pwedeng ma-distinguish na may mecha, kaso nga lang di sila ang prime focus ng story.

And one more extra: why not increase your income by advertising? You can lend your back cover and allot 1 or 2 pages worth of advertisements inside. Lumalaki na kasi ang staff niyo, baka pag lumaon sa sobrang dami nyo, 85 pesos per issue wont be enough to cover ALL your operating expenses.

OK hanggang dito na lang. Ubos na time ko sa Internet Cafe. Sayonara! ZAFT no tameni!

Athrun Zala
via the Internet

Meeting Yoshiyuki Tomino, as well as all the other big names in animation and comics, was an immense honor for James that he simply had to share it with all you readers. The development of new stories may have to wait a while since we are concentrating on the four core titles. However we're still accepting suggestions like your mecha idea so keep them coming, people.

Hello CC staff,

Wow! Your comic's so great. It's really for everyone. I would like to salute everyone – CC staff, sponsors, volunteers and especially Mr. Palabay. Neat!

It's actually my first time to see it here in Bacolod (I regretted *talaga* that I didn't buy at least one when I had my vacation in Manila – next time!) Honestly, I was surprised when I knew that Filipinos made it. For me, it's like "class international". The drawings – great. The stories – great. Colors – undoubtedly great. And the contents are really worth checking out. Over all, I'd give it a 100%. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?!

I got hooked instantly, especially with Pasig and One Day, Isang Diwa, which I wish will appear in all of your works.

I have my 1st issue and that's issue #10, your Monster issue. Unfortunately, I can't find another store or mall here that sells the other issues; I guess I'm always behind (I'll have to look again, this time harder). I hope to start a collection of Culture Crash. Whoever are the creators of CC are real geniuses.

I'm really looking forward to your next issues. I hope that your coming issues will be all glossy pages, it's okay even if the price will be a bit higher. I find "durability" in comics/books/magazines that I collect a must-factor. Please, are deliveries possible? *Kasi*, I really like to acquire your CC Comics Compilation #1 when it arrives. Thank you!!!

Keep it up! May God speed!

Your Newest Fan,
Von Carlo Hechanova
rain14th@yahoo.com
Bacolod City

(I'll keep on writing until one of my letters gets published)

We released the first compilation collecting issues 1-3 last year, and we're releasing the second one with issues 4-6 later this year. They should be available at magazine shops, major bookstores and specialty shops.
And thanks for writing! We always enjoy hearing from our fans in the provinces.

Hi! Finished reading your compilation number 1. Now I can see how well you guys improved in making comics. I also finished your issue 11. Thank God that your comics now have glossy pages. I don't like the kind of paper you were using back then. I will gladly pay higher than 100 pesos if Culture Crash will have glossy pages. In addition, I like how the story progresses in each of the titles. If I'm not mistaken, you said that you will add another title in your comics. I would like Solstice to be back and I also want a story kind of like the Final Fantasy thing. Another suggestion, have two *diwatas*,one for Jun and one for Clarissa, in ODID. That will surely boost up the market. Hehehe...

In your service,
Alvertte M. Alvero Jr.
Marikina City

We tried non-glossy paper in the past so we could add more pages to Culture Crash without having to increase our cover price, but we're glad to say that the glossy paper we're currently using will be the standard paper from now on. Unless of course, something better comes along. Only the best for our readers! Oh, and one *diwata*(?) is already too much for Jun to handle and you still want to add another one?

Dear Mr. EIC,

Thanks for the reprints of the first few issues. And #11 is great.

Anyway, the real reason why I e-mailed you is about some themes in both Cat's Trail and Kubori Kikiam. I'm just worried, but not offended, because if some other people with abhorrence to such should read and notice it, that might cause some serious repercussions.

In Cat's Trail, that Polaris guy is so inclined towards cigarettes. I had read in a mailing list recently that someone's manga entry to a foreign contest was disqualified because her (the author's) male character was smoking.

In Kubori Kikiam, the characters swear too much. Not because it's something new, it's just that... what's the use of inserting a swear-word only to have it blurred? You guys are creative enough that I think you could think of some other way to express those swears, without such fx-enhanced innuendo.

Well, this is just one reader's standpoint. I'm just concerned. *Mahirap nang maka-*confront *ng taong* hypercritical, y'know.

Mark
via the Internet

Thanks for writing. It's heartening to know that our readers are concerned about us. Even though Culture Crash is a comic magazine, we reflect in our pages various aspects of life, and that includes, for better or worse, people smoking and swearing. We don't mean to insult or disturb our readers with these images, but we also don't want to underestimate their intelligence and maturity.

NEXT ISSUE:

Kubori Kikiam: A surprise transformation that will shock balls and kikiams alike!
ODID: Jedd has not forgiven Jun, what does he have in mind?
Pasig: Dante Unleashed!!! as they say, 'nuff said!
Cat's Trail: The sultry but deadly Yukiko makes her move!
ON OTHER NEWS: Check out the new downloadable logos of CAT'S TRAIL on GMA txtube and during their animé block program! More on that next issue!

Asian Invasion Phase 2!!!

Love 'em or hate 'em, you can't escape 'em! Three cast members of the hit dramas ***Meteor Garden 1*** and ***2*** are coming to the Philippines, and it's not just for a visit!

F4 hunks **Ken Zhu** (who plays ***Xi Men***) and **Vanness Wu** (***Mei Zhuo***) will escort **Barbie Hsu** (who plays ***Shan Cai***) for a special one-day concert on September 12 at the ULTRA in Pasig City. Reportedly, a representative for the organizers walked right into F4's agency office in Hong Kong and made a whopping 7-figure offer in cash as down payment, just to shortcut the long-winding negotiations.

Too bad they couldn't get the entire F4 to perform since the boyband has broken up. But fans all over Asia, especially here in the Philippines, are holding their collective breath for a reunion. Now if the buzzing bees are to be trusted, that may not be as far-fetched an idea as you may think. Whazzat? A new drama series? Yeah right...

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THIS ISSUE'S FAN FEATURE

Honestly, we were all awed when we received **Stone Blazers**. *"Hindi tao!"* we all screamed. It's a shame you won't be able to see the originals. A lot of detail from his expert use of colored pencils, markers and metallic paints are lost in the printed version.

Congratulations to **Bryan Batchiller**!

Are you just itching to get published yourself?

Requirements:

1. Maximum of 8 pages. (Can be 1,2,4 or 6 pages as well)
2. Actual work must not exceed 8.5 x 11.
3. As of writing, submissions thru the Internet will not be honored.
4. Colored works are favored over B/W works.
5. Stories should be designed as a one issue or one-shot deal and not as a series.
6. Submit your works as cleanly as possible for clarity. (especially for B/W works.)
7. Make your text clear and readable, or separate them and we'll just lay them out for you digitally.

If you are submitting your work in digital form (e.g. CD), we highly recommend the following:

1. Work on actual print size (6x8).
2. Maintain a resolution no lower than 300 dpi.
3. Submit in either TIFF or PSD format.

Again please note: we **DO NOT ACCEPT ENTRIES FROM THE INTERNET**, please don't e-mail them to us.

Published works will receive:
Php 500 per colored page
Php 200 per black and white

Conditions:

1.Creator/Artist will get copyright credits for his/her characters. (Except for Culture Crash characters that the Artist makes use of.)
2. Creator/Artist will get copyright credits for his/her characters.
3. Culture Crash will retain copyright ownership of the work published.

PLEASE be advised that once we have received your work, we will maintain a "We'll call you, don't call us policy. We believe that this is the best way for us to remain unbiased and fair in our decision. Thanks! Good luck!

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C3CON 2003 UPDATE!

The much-awaited 2nd Philippine Comic Book and Animé Convention will be held on December 13 and 14 at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall. Many of your favorite contests and gimmicks from last year are coming back. Details are still being finalized but we'd like to announce this early the two contests which need advance preparation:

The Return of the Independent Comic Competition

Same as last year, Culture Crash will be providing a booth, free of charge, dedicated to Indies! Just read the requirments below and enter the contest!

1. Please include the following information:
   a. Full name
   b. Address
   c. Age
   d. Gender
   e. School/Place of Work (optional)
   f. Contact numbers
2. Must be self-published (not associated with a major publisher)
3. You must submit two (2) copies to:

Culture Crash Comics/JC Palabay Ent., Inc. 67 Gen Ordoñez St. Marikina Heights, Marikina City 1811

or

Any Comic Quest or Comic Alley branch, just enclose in an envelope labeled "C3 Con Independent Comic Book Contest".

4. Submissions must be in comic book format. Not on separate pages.
5. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.
6. Please submit on or before December 1, 2003. (The earlier the better.)

MTV/Short Film Contest

An all-new contest! Grab a video camera and a bunch of friends and make a short video inspired by comic books, anime, or pop culture. You can make a music video for your favorite anime soundtrack or J-pop song. You can interpret a scene from your favorite comic book or anime, or even spoof a movie. Just read the requirements below and enter. the contest!

1. Please include the following information:
   a. Full name
   b. Address
   c. Age
   d. Gender
   e. School/Place of Work (optional)
   f. Contact numbers
2. The movie should be from 2 to 7 minutes long.
3. You must submit one (1) copy to:

Culture Crash Comics/JC Palabay Ent., Inc. 67 Gen. Ordoñez St. Marikina Heights, Marikina City 1811

or

Any Comic Quest or Comic Alley branch, just enclose in an envelope labeled "C3 Con MTV/Short Film Contest".

4. Submissions must be on VHS, VCD or DVD, in any of the standard video formats (AVI, MPEG, etc.).
5. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.
6. Please submit on or before December 1, 2003. (The earlier the better.)